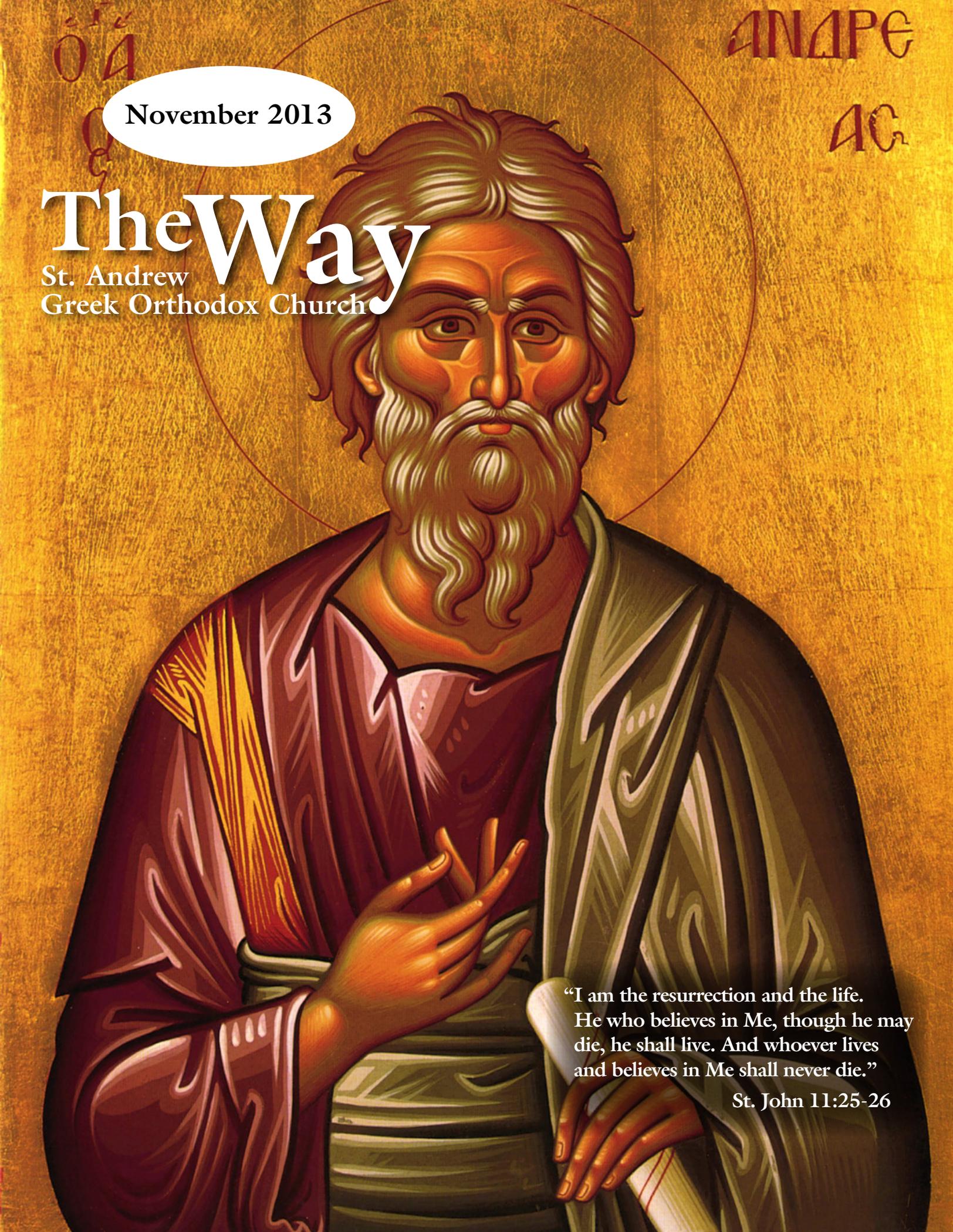


November 2013

# TheWay

St. Andrew  
Greek Orthodox Church



“I am the resurrection and the life.  
He who believes in Me, though he may  
die, he shall live. And whoever lives  
and believes in Me shall never die.”

St. John 11:25-26



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Under the auspices of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago

His Eminence, Metropolitan Iakovos  
of the Holy Metropolis of Chicago

40 E. Burton Place

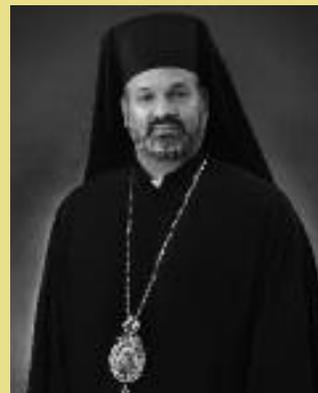
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His Grace Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos,  
Auxillary Bishop of the  
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America  
Chancellor of the  
Holy Metropolis of Chicago



## **Ministries of St. Andrew**

Acolytes – George Callas.....	271-1998
Adult Catechism – Pres. Elaine.....	273-1592
AHEPA – Paul Saros.....	233-8540
All Saints Society.....	
Archives – Aphro Pappas.....	288-9163
Cindy Crawford.....	271-7685
Bible Study – Fr. George.....	273-1592
Bookstore – Anna Napoleon.....	273-8827
Cantors – George Bilonis.....	269-429-0544
Hristos Kirgios.....	360-1006
Catechetical School-.....	
Choir/ Jr. Choir –Catherine Hostetler...	288-2930
Daughters of Penelope- Angela Magrames.....	259-4068
Good Samaritans – Terri Stavros.....	289-5000
GOYA –.....	
Hellenic Dance Troupe – Tina Assimos.	288-4105
Hellenic Cultural Society – Panos Antsaklis.....	277-7180
JOY – .....	
Library – Bruno Zovich.....	246-1408
Little Angels--Mary Scott.....	850-2831
Offertory – Andrew Manos.....	273-1298
Philoptochos – Irene Walsh.....	273-1553
Three Hierarchs Greek School – Hristos Kirgios.....	360-1006

## **2013 PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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*\*Denotes term expires end of 2013*

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**Please Note:** Because the outside cover of the bulletin is an Icon, for proper disposal remove the front cover and burn it. Thank you.

# Pastoral Message

November, 2013

“Send down Your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts  
Here set forth: And make this bread the Precious Body of  
Your Christ,  
And what is in this cup, the Precious Blood of Your Christ,  
CHANGING THEM BY YOUR HOLY SPIRIT. Amen, Amen, Amen.”  
[The Anamnesis and Epiclesis from the Divine Liturgy of Saint  
John Chrysostom]

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

Christ is in our midst! He was, is, and ever shall be. Ο ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΕΝ ΤΩ ΜΕΣΩ ΗΜΩΝ! ΚΑΙ ΗΝ ΚΑΙ ΕΣΤΙ ΚΑΙ ΕΣΤΑΙ.

Orthodox Christians are constantly challenged by the secular and unbelieving world and society which they live in. The opponents of Our Lord Jesus Christ and of His Divine teachings make every possible effort to create doubt and confusion among Christian believers. They attempt this by misinformation and unorthodox teachings to persuade Christians to abandon their Faith and Church. Saint Peter the Holy Apostle warns us of the following: “But there were [are] also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who brought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber” (2 Peter 2:1-3).

In the Scriptural commentary found in the Orthodox Study Bible states: Saint Peter now reaches his main concern: “False teachers” who are unholy and communicate heresy. They are arrogant, sensual, and greedy, and they deny accountability in their lives. Isolating themselves from Apostolic Doctrine concerning Christ, they hold their own ‘private interpretations,’ misconstruing doctrines about the Second Coming and the ultimate authority of Christ over us. Being deceivers, they teach as though they possess true apostolicity” (Orthodox Study Bible, page 564).

As your priest I am concerned about your spiritual welfare and include all of you in my prayers and seek our Lord’s blessings, guidance and protection for all of you knowing the many threats you and your children encounter every day.

“The Christian, through faith in Christ and participation in baptism and Holy Eucharist and the other Mysteries (Sacraments) become «σύμφυτοι» -having been “planted together” in Christ; having been ingrafted, having made a part of His Body, as branches into the Vine of Life.”

The Holy Mysteries (ries) or Sacraments of our Holy Church are the means and channels of Grace, i.e., the sacred services and ceremonies through which Divine Grace and power are communicated to sinful man and cleanse him and sanctify him, making him righteous before God. Divine Grace is also conveyed through the word of God, through the preaching of the Gospel, and through prayer.

According to Saint John Chrysostom, “it is called Mystery (Sacrament) because we believe not that which we see; for we see one thing and believe another”. And another Father of the Church states: “The Mysteries (Sacraments) are composed of the natural (i.e., the material and visible) and the supernatural (i.e., the spiritual and invisible)”. And these are the powerful means which necessarily bring Divine Grace to those who accept the Holy Mysteries. And still other holy Fathers state: “The Mystery or Sacrament is a ceremony which under a visible form is the cause for bringing to the soul of the believer the invisible Grace of God”. Thus it is that the Mysteries (Sacraments), when they are **WORTHILY RECEIVED, become INSTRUMENTS, MEANS OF TRANSMISSION, OF DIVINE GRACE. NOT DEATH! BUT OF SALVATION.**

One of the divine Mysteries (Sacraments) of our Church that is under attack by unbelievers is the Mystery of the Holy Eucharist. Some of our people have been influenced by unbelievers to fear the Holy Eucharist as dangerous to one's health because of how is distributed by spoon to the faithful. They are afraid that by touching the communion spoon with their lips they will catch germs. The solution that has been suggested is for the priest to either sling in the Holy Communion in an open mouth or to simply turn over the communion spoon with the Holy Eucharist (the Precious Body and Blood of Christ) into an open mouth without touching the communion spoon. The spoon which is

the instrument that Holy Communion is dispensed to the faithful Orthodox Christians throughout the world is NOT an instrument of destruction and death. Or even of transmitting illness to those who receive the Holy Eucharist. It is constantly placed in the holy Chalice which is filled with the Precious Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. The spoon is drenched constantly with Holy Communion and therefore how can we fear the spoon? Holy Communion gives life, forgiveness, restoration, healing, salvation and the Eternal Heavenly Kingdom and NOT disease.

I was alarmed when I read in the South Bend Tribune in recent years of a bishop of a non-Orthodox church advising his people not to receive Communion when many are sick by a flu virus so as not to transmit the virus through Communion from one person to another. Are we, as Orthodox Christians, to follow that example?

The Holy Eucharist is the Mystery in which the bread and wine of offering ARE CHANGED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT INTO TRUE BODY AND TRUE BLOOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, and then the BELIEVERS receive Holy Communion of them for a most intimate UNION WITH CHRIST AND ETERNAL LIFE.

Before the first performance of this Mystery (Sacrament) at the Mystical Supper, Christ promised it in His conversation concerning the Bread of Life on the occasion of the feeding of the five thousand men with five loaves. The Lord taught, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: If any man eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread which I will give is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world" (St. John 6:51). And again the Lord said: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, except you eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoso eats My flesh, and drinks My blood, has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is meat indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He that eats My flesh, and drinks My blood dwells in Me, and I in him" (St. John 6:53-56).

The Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist. "As the words of the Epiclesis make abundantly plain, the Orthodox Church believes that AFTER CONSECRATION THE BREAD AND WINE BECOME IN VERY TRUTH THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST: THEY ARE NOT MERE SYMBOLS, BUT THE REALITY. But while Orthodoxy has always insisted on the REALITY of the change, it has never attempted to explain the MANNER of the change: the Eucharistic Prayer in the Divine Liturgy simple uses the neutral term METAVALLO, to 'turn about', 'change', or 'alter'."

Some, however, may argue that it is not the Holy Eucharist that we are afraid of but the communion spoon that touches the lips of so many Christians. But is it not the same spoon that enters the same chalice that contains the Precious Body and Blood of Our Savior Jesus Christ? Are we are to believe, God forbid!, that the spoon that touched someone's lips transmits germs and pollutes the entire Eucharist in the chalice? There is only one word that applies here with this kind of thought, and that it leads to, **BLASPHEMY!** or **HERESY!** It is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit to deny the **CONSECRATION OF THE GIFTS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**. It is also a sin against the Holy Spirit which according to our Lord is **AN UNFORGIVABLE SIN**. "But he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation" (St. Mark 3:29).

We as Greek Orthodox priests must not give in to either the fears, doubts, distortions and superstition of our people who are religiously illiterate and uninformed, but instead teach them about the Holy Eucharist and why it is administered the way it is and furthermore, that it does not and cannot ever present a threat to any of the Orthodox Christian believers who receive the Precious and Life-Giving Body and Blood of Christ "with the fear of God, with faith and love..."

With sincere agape in His Holy Diakonia,  
The sinner and unworthy servant of God

+Father George

### **YOUR PRAYERS HELP...**

"...I was sick and you visited Me..." St. Matthew 25:36. "Holy Father, Physician of our souls and bodies have mercy, forgive and heal thy servants." The following brothers and sisters in Christ need your constant prayers and love, *recovering at home or ill at home/hospital*: Mary Verongos (St. Joseph Rehab), John Magrames (home), Mary Koucouthakis (home), and Anna Pappas, (home).

*In nursing homes or home bound*: Esther Magrames (St. Joseph Nursing), Mary Manos (home), Bill and Betty Kanalos (Hearth at Juday Creek), Amelia Morris (Miller's Merry Manor, Walkerton), Joan Rekos (Kindred), Helen Kaldis, Mary Rudhman (home), and Telesila Yustwan (Home).

# Ecclesiastical Calendar

<p>Fri, Nov 1</p> <p>Sts. Cosmas &amp; Damianos <b>at Holy Dormition Chapel</b>            9:00 Orthros            10:00 Divine Liturgy            Vespers 4:30pm</p>	<p>Sat, Nov 16</p> <p>St. Matthew the Apostle            9:00 Orthros            10:00 Divine Liturgy            Great Vespers 5pm</p>
<p>Sat, Nov 2</p> <p>Great Vespers 5pm</p>	<p>Sun, Nov 17</p> <p>Ninth Sunday of Luke            9:00 Orthros            10:00 Divine Liturgy</p>
<p>Sun, Nov 3</p> <p>Fifth Sunday of Luke            9:00 Orthros            10:00 Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>Mon, Nov 18</p> <p>Orthros 9am            Vespers 4:30pm</p>
<p>Mon, Nov 4</p> <p>Orthros 9am            Vespers 4:30pm</p>	<p>Tue, Nov 19</p> <p>Orthros 9am            Vespers 4:30pm</p>
<p>Tue, Nov 5</p> <p>Orthros 9am            Vespers 4:30pm</p>	<p>Wed, Nov 20</p> <p>Paraklesis to St Nektarios 9am            Great Vespers for the Forefeast of the Entrance of the Theotokos 7pm</p>
<p>Wed, Nov 6</p> <p>Paraklesis to St Nektarios 9am            Vespers 4:30pm</p>	<p>Thu, Nov 21</p> <p>Entrance of the Theotokos            9:00 Orthros            10:00 Divine Liturgy</p>
<p>Fri, Nov 8</p> <p>Synaxis of the Archangels <b>at Holy Dormition Chapel</b>            9:00 Orthros            10:00 Divine Liturgy            Great Vespers for the Forefeast of St Nektarios 7pm</p>	<p>Fri, Nov 22</p> <p>Paraklesis to the Theotokos 9am <b>at Holy Dormition Chapel</b>            Vespers 4:30pm</p>
<p>Sat, Nov 9</p> <p>St. Nektarios            9:00 Orthros            10:00 Divine Liturgy            Great Vespers 5pm</p>	<p>Sat, Nov 23</p> <p>Great Vespers 5pm</p>
<p>Sun, Nov 10</p> <p>Eighth Sunday of Luke            9:00 Orthros            10:00 Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>Sun, Nov 24</p> <p>Thirteenth Sunday of Luke            9:00 Orthros            10:00 Divine Liturgy</p>
<p>Mon, Nov 11</p> <p>Orthros 9am            Vespers 4:30pm</p>	<p>Mon, Nov 25</p> <p>St. Katherine the Great Martyr            9:00 Orthros            10:00 Divine Liturgy            Vespers 4:30pm</p>
<p>Tue, Nov 12</p> <p>Orthros 9am            Vespers 4:30pm</p>	<p>Tue, Nov 26</p> <p>Orthros 9am            Vespers 4:30pm</p>
<p>Wed, Nov 13</p> <p>St. John Chrysostomos            9:00 Orthros            10:00 Divine Liturgy            Vespers 4:30pm</p>	<p>Wed, Nov 27</p> <p>Paraklesis to St Nektarios 9am            Vespers 4:30pm</p>
<p>Thu, Nov 14</p> <p>St. Philip the Apostle            9:00 Orthros            10:00 Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>Fri, Nov 29</p> <p>Great Vesper for the Forefeast of St. Andrew the First-Called 7pm</p>
<p>Fri, Nov 15</p> <p><b>NATIVITY FAST BEGINS</b>            Paraklesis to Theotokos 9am <b>at Holy Dormition Chapel</b></p>	<p>Sat, Nov 30</p> <p>St. Andrew the First-Called            9:00 Orthros            10:00 Divine Liturgy            Great Vespers 5pm</p>

## Monthly Calendar

Sunday, November 3	Fall Parish Assembly
Monday, November 5	Good Samaritans 6:30pm
Saturday, November 9	St. Andrew Dinner Dance
Sunday, November 10	Bulletin Information Deadline
Thursday, November 14	Philo托chos 6:30pm
Friday, November 15	<b>NATIVITY FAST BEGINS</b>
Tuesday, November 19	Parish Council Meeting 7pm
Thursday & Friday, Nov 28 & 29	Thanksgiving-Office Closed

## Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, December 1	Bishop Demetrios of Mokissios officiating Liturgy Luncheon following Liturgy
Tuesday, December 10	Parish Council Meeting 7pm
June 6-8, 2014	Grecian Festival
June 12-14 2015	Grecian Festival

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, His Grace Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos, will be officiating the Divine Liturgy here at Saint Andrew.

Following the Divine Liturgy, there will be a luncheon in the Good Samaritan Cultural Center. Everyone is invited to join us.

**Freewill donation, but please call the office with your reservation so we can make sure enough food will be provided.**

## The Holy Nativity Fast

“Make ready, O Bethlehem: let the  
Manger be prepared, let the cave show  
It’s welcome. The Truth has come, the  
Shadow has passed away...”

On November 15<sup>th</sup> every year our Holy Orthodox Christian Church begins the forty day period where we proclaim the great revelation and miracle of God becoming man. This is the time in the Orthodox Church where our attention is drawn to the great mystery of the Incarnation of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God,  
And the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with  
God. All things were made by him; and without him was not  
Anything made that was made... And the Word was made flesh,  
And dwelt among us...” (St. John 1:1-3, 14).

Thus does the Holy Evangelist John announce the glad tidings and theologize in the first lines of his Gospel. The Holy Orthodox Church places this account at the head of all the Gospel readings, offering it to us at the Divine Liturgy on the day of holy Pascha, and beginning the yearly cycle of readings from the Gospel with this one.

“Great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh”  
(I Timothy 3:16).

The unutterable, unknowable, invisible, unattainable God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, became man in the form of the God-man, the Lord Jesus Christ, and dwelt among men on earth.

The preaching of the God-Manhood of the Incarnate Son of God constitutes the content of the words of the Savior Himself, the content of the whole message of Good Tidings announced by the Holy Apostles, the essence of the Four Gospels and all of the Apostolic writings, the foundation of Christianity, and the foundation of the teaching of the Holy Church.

The good tidings of the Gospel are the good tidings of the Incarnate Son of God Who became man, having come down from heaven to earth. Faith in Jesus Christ—that He is the Son of God—is the firm foundation or ROCK of the Church, according to the Lord’s own Divine words: “Upon this rock I will build my Church” (St. Matthew 16:18).

We await His coming in anticipation of the great joy of His Birth on Christmas Day. For our preparation the wisdom of our Church asks us to participate in a fast, with all the sacrifices and discomfort it may bring. If this is a season of such great joy, why is this the practice of Orthodox Christians around the world?

By our fasting we are reminded that this is not simply the birth of a human baby, but God being united with man. It is the moment when the unchangeable is joined with the changeable, eternal life with mortal life, He Who holds the universe in His hand and Who created all comes in the flesh for the salvation of all mankind.

“Thou Who was adorned the vault of heaven with stars has been well pleased to be  
Born as a Babe; and Thou, Who holds all the ends of the earth in the hallow of Thy  
Hand art laid in a manger of dumb beasts...” (Stichera of Third Hour, Eve of the Holy  
Nativity).

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (St. John 1:14). Who then is Jesus Christ?

- (1) He is God, for He was with God from before all time. Clearly, the One born Jesus of Nazareth did not have His beginning in His earthly birth. Rather, He is the Eternal Son of God, without beginning. There never was a time when the Son of God did not exist.
- (2) He is also man, for He “became flesh”. He has become one of us, being like us in all things but without sin.
- (3) He acts both as God and as man, doing what is appropriate for each nature in the unity provided by His One Divine Person. Never does Divine Nature and activity become changed into human nature and activity. The two are in union without confusion. Christ does, however, “energize” human nature with Divine energy so that human nature is REDEEMED FROM SIN AND DEATH AND BROUGHT INTO UNION WITH GOD. HE THUS, “DEIFIES” HUMANITY.

This holy event should make all of Christianity tremble with awe and wonder, bring us to humility and desiring to offer doxology and thanksgiving. But are we not engulfed in the secular customs of this holiday season

with its focus on gifts, trips and parties, where the great significance of this holy feast is lost? Do we any longer take time to meditate about why God was Incarnated and became man? Do we reflect at all on the truth that it is through His becoming one with us that we can now become one with Him? Do we remember that before this event man was not able to overcome sin and the fear of death, held in bondage to sin? Now man can be deified (theosis) and be united with Him forever. With the Holy Nativity fast Orthodox Christians prepare for the holy celebration and journey towards their salvation. This is a journey where we must learn to surrender our heart and soul to the will of God Almighty.

The beginning of the fast on November 15<sup>th</sup> is not liturgically marked by any hymns, but five days later, on the evening of the Feast of the Presentation of the Theotokos, we hear the first announcement from the nine “Irmoi” of the Christmas Canon: “CHRIST IS BORN, GLORIFY HIM!”

This period includes other special preparatory days announcing the approaching Holy Nativity: Saint Andrew’s Day, November 30<sup>th</sup>; Saint Nicholas Feast-Day, December 6<sup>th</sup>; the Sunday of the Forefathers; and the Sunday of the Fathers.

December 20<sup>th</sup> begins the Forefeast of the Holy Nativity. The liturgical structure is similar to the Holy and Great Week preceding the All-Holy Pascha. The Orthodox Church sees the birth of the Son of God as the beginning of the saving ministry which will lead Him, for the sake of man’s salvation, to the ultimate sacrifice of the Cross.

On the eve of the Holy Nativity, the Royal Hours are read and the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great is served with Great Vespers. At these divine services the Old Testament prophecies of Christ’s birth are chanted.

This Holy Nativity fast is to help us lift ourselves above all those mundane things which bind us to our worldly life, freeing ourselves to be united in Him. “Let us, who mystically represent the Cherubim and chant the thrice-holy hymn to the Life-Creating Trinity, put away all worldly care so that we may receive the King of all” (Cherubic hymn).

As we fast we are constantly reminded that we depend totally on Him for our food and have also are in need of spiritual food that is much more than our daily bread. In this process of fasting we are lifting our thoughts to things that are of the heavenly realm that bring us true joy and fulfillment.

The purpose of fasting is to focus on the things that are above, the Kingdom of Heaven. It is a means of putting on virtue in reality, here and now. Through if we are freed from dependence on worldly things. We fast faithfully and in secret, not judging others, and not holding ourselves by our hunger or thirst.

The Nativity Fast is one of the Four Canonical Fasting Seasons in the Ecclesiastical year. Because it is a joyous fast in anticipation of the Nativity of our Savior Christ, that is one reason it is less austere than other fasting periods. The fast is divided into two periods. The first period is November 15<sup>th</sup> through December 19<sup>th</sup> when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, dairy, fish, wine, and olive oil) is observed. There is dispensation given for wine and olive oil on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Similarly, fish, wine, and olive oil are permitted on Saturdays and Sundays. The second period is December 20<sup>th</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup> when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, dairy, fish, wine, and olive oil) is observed.

We fast all Wednesdays and Fridays throughout the Nativity Fast. We may have fish from November 21<sup>st</sup> until December 17<sup>th</sup>. We may eat fish also on the Presentation of the Virgin Mary. On the days that olive oil may be used we can eat seafood i.e., shrimp, octopus, shellfish, squid, etc.

Do not Fast:

If you are pregnant or nursing a newborn.

During serious illness;

Without prayer;

Without alms-giving...

Fasting in itself is not a means of pleasing God. Fasting is not a punishment for our sins. Nor is fasting a means of suffering and pain to be undertaken as some kind of atonement. Christ already redeemed us on His Cross. Salvation is A GIFT FROM GOD THAT IS NOT BOUGHT OR EARNED.

We fast to be delivered from carnal passions so that God’s gift of salvation may bear fruit in us. We fast and turn our eyes toward God in His Holy Church. Fasting and prayer go together. Fasting is not irrelevant. Fasting is not obsolete, and it is not something for someone else. Fasting is from God, for us, right here and right now.

Most of all, we should not devour each other. We ask God to “set a watch and keep the door of our lips.” May God bless you now and always.

## ΝΗΣΤΕΙΑ ΤΩΝ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΩΝ

Πότε, γιατί και πώς;  
(τού Σεβ. Μητρ. Νέας Σμύρνης κ. Συμεών)

1. Δεύτερη μακρά περίοδος νηστείας μετά τη Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή είναι η νηστεία τών Χριστουγέννων, γνωστή στη γλώσσα τού ορθοδόξου λαού μας και ως σαράντα (η)μερο. Περιλαμβάνει και αυτή σαράντα ημέρες, όμως δέν έχει τήν αυστηρότητα τής νηστείας τής Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστής. Αρχίζει τήν 15<sup>η</sup> Νοεμβρίου και λήγει τήν 24<sup>η</sup> Δεκεμβρίου.
2. Ἡ εορτή τής κατά σάρκα Γεννήσεως τού Κυρίου μας Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ αποτελεί τή δεύτερη μεγάλη Δεσποτική εορτή τού χριστιανικοῦ εορτολογίου. Μέχρι τά μέσα τού Δ΄ αιώνα η Εκκλησία τής Ανατολῆς συνεόρταζε τή γέννηση και τή βάπτισή τού Χριστοῦ υπό τό ὄνομα τά Επιφάνεια τήν ἴδια ημέρα, στίς 6 Ιανουαρίου. Τά Χριστουγεννα ὡς ξεχωριστή εορτή, εορταζομένη στίς 25 Δεκεμβρίου εισήχθη στήν Ανατολή ἀπό τή Δύση περί τά τέλη τού Δ΄ αιώνα.

Ὁ ἅγιος Ἰωάννης ο Χρυσόστομος, πού πρώτος ομιλεῖ γιά τήν εορτή τών Χριστουγέννων, τήν ονομάζει «μητρόπολιν πασών τών εορτῶν» και μάς πληροφορεῖ περί τό 386 ὅτι «οὐπω δέκατόν ἔστιν ἔτος ἐξ οὗ δήλη και γνώριμος ἡμῖν αὕτη ἡ ημέρα (τῆς εορτῆς) γεγένηται».

Μέ τή διαίρεση τῆς ἄλλοτε ενιαίας εορτῆς και τήν καθιέρωση τών τριών ξεχωριστῶν εορτῶν, τῆς Γεννήσεως τήν 25<sup>η</sup> Δεκεμβρίου, τῆς Περιτομῆς τήν 1<sup>η</sup> και τῆς Βαπτίσεως τήν 6<sup>η</sup> Ιανουαρίου, διαμορφώθηκε και τό λεγόμενο Δωδεκαήμερον, δηλαδή τό εόρτιο χρονικό διάστημα ἀπό τίς 25 Δεκεμβρίου ὡς τίς 6 Ιανουαρίου. Ἐτσι διασώθηκε κατά κάποιον τρόπο ἡ ἀρχαία ἐνότητα τών δύο μεγάλων εορτῶν τῆς Γεννήσεως και τῆς Βαπτίσεως τού Κυρίου.

3. Ἡ μεγάλη σημασία πού απέκτησε μέ τήν πάροδο τού χρόνου στή συνείδηση τῆς Εκκλησίας ἡ νέα εορτή τών Χριστουγέννων και ἡ εὐλάβεια τών πιστῶν και ἰδιαίτερα τών μοναχῶν, αποτέλεσαν τίς προϋποθέσεις γιά τήν καθιέρωση και τῆς πρό τών Χριστουγέννων νηστείας. Σ΄ αὐτό ἀσφαλῶς ἐπέδρασε και ἡ διαμορφωμένη ἤδη τεσσαρκοήμερη νηστεία τῆς Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστής πού προηγείτο τού Πάσχα. Ὅπως ἡ εορτή ἔτσι και ἡ νηστεία, ὡς προετοιμασία γιά τήν υποδοχή τών γενεθλιῶν τού Σωτήρος, ἐμφανίστηκε ἀρχικά στή Δύση, ὅπου ἡ νηστεία αὕτη ονομαζόταν Τεσσαρακοστή τού ἁγίου Μαρτίνου ἐπειδή ἀρχίζε ἀπό τήν εορτή τού ἁγίου τούτου τῆς Δυτικῆς Εκκλησίας. Τό ἴδιο ἐπανελήφθη και σ΄ ἐμάς, ὅπου πολλοί τή νηστεία τών Χριστουγέννων ονομάζουν τού ἁγίου Φιλίππου ἐπειδή προφανῶς ἀρχίζει τήν ἐπομένη τῆς μνήμης τού Ἀποστόλου. Οἱ πρώτες ἱστορικές μαρτυρίες, πού ἔχουμε γιά τή νηστεία πρό τών Χριστουγέννων, ἀνάγονται γιά τή Δύση στόν Ε΄ και γιά τήν Ανατολή στόν ΣΤ (6<sup>ος</sup>) αἰῶνα. Ἀπό τούς ἀνατολικούς συγγραφείς σ΄ αὕτην ἀναφέρονται ὁ Ἀναστάσιος Σιναΐτης, ὁ πατριάρχης Κωνσταντινουπόλεως Νικηφόρος ὁ Ὁμολογητής, ὁ ἅγιος Θεόδωρος ὁ Στουδίτης, καθώς ἐπίσης και ὁ πατριάρχης Ἀντιοχείας Θεόδωρος Βαλσαμών.
4. Ἡ νηστεία στήν ἀρχή, καθώς φαίνεται, ἦταν μικρῆς διάρκειας. Ὁ Θεόδωρος Βαλσαμών, πού γράφει περί τόν ΙΒ΄ (12<sup>ος</sup>) αἰῶνα – και κατά σενέπεια μάς πληροφορεῖ γιά ὅσα ἴσχυαν στήν ἐποχή του--, σαφῶς τήν ονομάζει «ἐπταήμερον». Ὅμως υπό τήν ἐπίδραση τῆς νηστείας τῆς Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστής ἐπεξετάθη και αὕτη σέ σαράντα ημέρες, χωρίς ἐν τούτοις νά προσλάβει τήν αυστηρότητα τῆς πρώτης.  
Πῶς θά πρέπει νά τή νηστεύουμε; Καθ΄ ὅλη τή διάρκεια τού σαρανταήμερου δέν καταλύουμε κρέας, γαλακτερά και αὐγά. Ἀντίθετα, ἐπιτρέπεται νά καταλύουμε ψάρι ὅλες τίς ημέρες –πλήν,

φυσικά, τής Τετάρτης και τής Παρασκευής-από την αρχή μέχρι και την 17<sup>η</sup> Δεκεμβρίου. Ψάρι καταλύουμε επίσης και κατά την εορτή των Εισοδίων τής Θεοτόκου, οποιαδήποτε ημέρα κι αν πέσει. Από την 18<sup>η</sup> μέχρι και την 24<sup>η</sup> Δεκεμβρίου, παραμονή τής εορτής, επιτρέπεται η κατάλυση οίνου και ελαίου μόνο -εκτός, βέβαια, των ημερών Τετάρτης και Παρασκευής που θά παρεμβληθούν και κατά τις οποίες τηρούμε ανέλαιη νηστεία. Επίσης μέ ξυροφαγία θά πρέπει νά νηστεύουμε τήν πρώτη ημέρα τής νηστείας, 15<sup>η</sup> Νοεμβρίου, καθώς και τήν παραμονή τής εορτής, εκτός βέβαια κι αν πέσουν Σάββατο ή Κυριακή.

### ΝΗΣΤΕΙΑ ΑΠΟΧΗ ΑΠΟ ΠΑΣΗΣ ΑΜΑΡΤΙΑΣ

«Επίσης οφείλουμε νά μήν τηρούμε μόνο τήν τάξη τής νηστείας που αφορά τίς τροφές, αλλά νά απέχουμε και από κάθε αμαρτία, έτσι ώστε, όπως νηστεύουμε ως προς τήν κοιλιά, νά νηστεύουμε και ως προς τή γλώσσα, αποφεύγοντας τήν καταλαλιά, τό ψέμα, τήν αργολογία, τή λοιδορία, τήν οργή και γενικά κάθε αμαρτία που δαπράτουμε μέσω τής γλώσσας.

Επίσης χρειάζεται νά νηστεύουμε ως προς τά μάτια. Νά μήν βλέπουμε μάταια πράγματα. Νά μήν αποκτούμε παρηρησία διά μέσου των ματιών. Νά μήν περιεργαζόμαστε κάποιον μέ αναίδεια. Ακόμη θά πρέπει νά εμποδίζουμε τά χέρια και τά πόδια από κάθε πονηρό πράγμα. Μέ αυτό τον τρόπο νηστεύοντας μία νηστεία ευπρόσδεκτη στον Θεό και αποφεύγοντας κάθε είδους κακία που ενεργείται διά μέσου τής καθεμιάς από τίς αισθήσεις μας, θά πλησιάζουμε, όπως είπαμε, τήν αγία ημέρα τής Χριστουγέννων αναγεννημένοι, καθαροί και άξιοι τής μεταλήψεως των αγίων μυστηρίων».

[Αποστολική Διακονία]

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Ο δε 'αγιος και Μέγας Βασίλειος αναφέρει για τη Νηστεία: «Όταν ο Θεός είπε 'Δέν θα φάγεται' στους πρωτοπλάστους, τους έβαλε Νόμο Νηστείας και Εγκρατείας. Εάν η Εύα δεν έτρωγε από τον καρπό του δένδρου εκείνου, δεν θα είχαμε ανάγκη σήμερα από τη Νηστεία. Επειδή δεν νηστεύσαμε, διωχθήκαμε από τον Παράδεισο. Ας νηστεύσουμε λοιπόν, για να μπούμε πάλι σε Αυτόν».

## 2013 PLEDGED STEWARDS

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Anagnos	Mr. & Mrs. George Anagnos	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Anagnos
Mr. Manolis Anagnostou	Mr. & Mrs. Leon Andrews	Mrs. Maria Angelos
Dr. & Dr. Panos Antsaklis	Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Armstrong	Mr. Peter Armstrong
Mrs. Esther Arvanitis	Mr. & Mrs. Panos Arvanitis	Ms. Tina Assimos
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Avgerinos	Mr. Mrs. & Jack Bercaw	Mr. & Mrs. George Bilonis
Mr. & Mrs. Ilias Bilonis	Mrs. Ioanna Bilonis	Miss Joanne Bilonis
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Bilonis	Mr. Tasos Bilonis	Mrs. Dina Blatter
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Bonnell	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Borkowski	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Bouris
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Bouris	Mrs. Christine Callas	Mr. George Callas
Mrs. Ruth Carroll	Mrs. Christine Christ	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Christodoulakis
Mr. & Mrs. Petro Christos	Mr. & Mrs. Dain Crawford	Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Demetriou
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Efthimiou	Mrs. Elizabeth Farr	Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Gachumi
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Gevas	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Giannakakis	Mr. & Mrs. Vasilios Giannakakis
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hawthorne	Mrs. Maxine Hendricks	Mrs. & Mrs. Alex Himonas
Mrs. Julia Hiotas	Mrs. Artemis Hoke	Mr. & Mrs. William Hostetler
Mrs. Mary Johnston	Mr. & Mrs. Dean Kanalos	Mr. Terry Karaszewski
Mrs. Deb Karras	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Katris	Miss Krista Katris
Mrs. Aliko Katsaris	Mr. & Mrs. Hristos Kirgios	Mrs. Theodora Kolettis
Mr. Lou Kollias	Fr. George & Pres. Elaine	Miss Mariam Konstantopoulos
Mr. Stefan Konstantopoulos	Mrs. Mary Koucouthakis	Mr. Spiro Krekelas
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kristos	Mr. & Mrs. Christ Kurtis	Mr. & Mrs. Kosta Lambrou
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Lampos	Mrs. Janice Lampos	Mr. & Mrs. Levi Lampos
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Lauer	Mrs. Catherine Leonakis	Mr. & Mrs. George Lepeniotis
Mr. & Mrs. George Limberopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Nick P. Limberopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Limperopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. John Madias	Miss Esther Magrames	Mr. & Mrs. John Magrames
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Manos	Mr. & Mrs. Dan Martindale	Miss Ellen Metros
Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Metros	Mrs. Marilyn Metros	Dr. & Mrs. George Mighion
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Mihail	Mrs. Anna Moskolis	Mr. Nicholas Moskolis
Mr. Sam Moskolis	Mr. & Mrs. Eleas Mudis	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Napoleon
Mr. & Mrs. George Nazaroff	Dr. & Mrs. Robert Nolan	Mrs. Ruth Orfanos
Miss Anna Pappas	Miss Aphrodite Pappas	Mr. Seraphim Philippis
Mr. Ted Poledor	Mr. & Mrs. Mike Popyk	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Poulos
Mr. Nicholas Proicou	Mr. & Mrs. Julius Psalida	Mr. & Mrs. Sam Samoilis
Mrs. Toulia Sarantos	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Schlitt	Mr. & Mrs. Pete Skotadis
Mrs. Elaine Stangas	Mr. & Mrs. George Stangas	Mr. & Mrs. John Stavrakos
Miss Connie Stavropulos	Miss Irene Stavropulos	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Strafford
Mr. & Mrs. John Stratigos	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Szalay	Mrs. Sigrid Thanos
Mr. Angelos Thrapsimis	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Tirikos	Mr. & Mrs. Dino Tripodis
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Tsiumas	Mr. & Mrs. Adam Turley	Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Tyler
Mr. & Mrs. Frazis Tyrikos	Mr. & Mrs. Elliot Uzelac	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Vardalos
Mr. Jim Zeinis	Mr. Bruno Zovich	

We have received 120 pledges totaling \$117,695. Our stewardship goal for 2013 is \$175,000

***JUST A REMINDER*** that the church office needs a pledge card on record ***EVERY YEAR***. Please remember to fill out and send in your pledge card for **2013**.

**PLEASE NOTE:** A Letter of Good Standing **CANNOT** be issued to any Orthodox Christian who doesn't adhere to the UPR, Article 18, Section 1 (see below). **Anyone requesting any official document from the parish registry must be a current and active member of our parish and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.**

## 2013 Financial Report

Sep 13 Income	Sep 13 Expenses	Monthly Balance	Sep 12 Income	Sep 12 Expenses	Sep 12 Balance
\$15,788.35	\$24,746.23	--\$8,957.88	\$15,683.70	\$27,369.28	--\$11,685.58

YTD 13 Income	YTD 13 Expense	YTD 13 Balance	12 YTD Inc	12 YTD Ex	12 YTD Bal
\$317,489.39	\$301,900.12	\$15,949.27	\$477,044.74	\$444,525.66	\$32,519.08

### Stewardship Report

Sep Pledge Income	Sep Pledge Goal	Difference goal/income	YTD 13 Pledge Inc	YTD 13 Pledge Goal	Difference goal/income
\$8,844.00	\$16,500.00	\$7,656.00	\$103,383.00	\$125,500.00	--\$22,117.00

\*Year-to-date as of **September 30, 2013**

**St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church**  
**South Bend, IN**  
**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting**  
**September 17, 2013**

#### **Opening:**

The President called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM with a quorum met. The meeting began with a prayer led by Rev. George Konstantopoulos.

#### **Members Present:**

President: Hristos Kirgios; Vice President: Tina Assimos; Treasurer: Pano Arvanitis; Secretary: not able to attend ( MJ Tirikos will fill in) Bill Giannakakis, Nick Giannakakis, Dr. George Mighion, Kelly Popyk, Chris Strafford and Mary Jo Tirikos.

#### **Members Absent:**

Alex Himonas, Tom Limberopoulos, John Madias and Pete Mattheos.

#### **Guests:** K.R. Palmer and Shauna Luthringer from Palmer Funeral Home

The purpose of their visit was to inform the Parish that there are still several plots available at the cemetery and they wanted to know if we or anyone from the Parish were interested in their services. They are able to offer a discount to those that use the funeral home as well as the cemetery in combination. They would also like to know if we are interested in the expansion of the cemetery to accommodate the needs of the parish and designate a section in the cemetery for St. Andrew. The Parish Council asked that they put something in writing that we could pass on to the parishioners.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting were reviewed.

**Chris Strafford moved to accept the minutes as written. Dr. George Mighion seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Pano Arvinitis reviewed the May, June, July, August and year to date 2013 balance sheets and P&L as well as the Festival P&L reports with the Council.

### **2013 Festival P&L Report**

The net income from Festival 2013 is 64,522.62

The expenses increased this year and donations were down. The festival was also less attended this year. We feel it was due to the change of date for graduations to the weekend of the festival this year and going forward. We would like to discuss the Festival dates in the future to see if there are better options.

### **General Fund**

The General Fund is at \$41,118.10 as of August 31, 2013.

Stewardship is at \$13,301.35 for the month of August 2013

Health insurance costs increased \$271 per month.

May flower costs were up due to Pascha.

Lawn care costs were up in June.

Stewardship for the year is below budget by \$10,874.75.

Year to date expenses are below budget by \$1,247.35.

We are above budget for year to date net income by \$3,229.39.

Stewardship alone is not enough to cover our expenses. We need a strong stewardship committee.

**Dr. George Mighion moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Chris Strafford seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

### **Pastor's Report:**

**1.** Father reminded the council of the upcoming Metropolis Clergy-Laity Conference in Sioux City, Iowa on October 2nd to the 6<sup>th</sup>. Father George is attending the conference as well as Mary Jo Tirikos. There are approximately 70 parishes in the Metropolis. It is a requirement to send 2 delegates for the parish. One parish council member and one parishioner are to be elected at the Spring General Assembly. The church community is obligated to pay the costs of attending. We failed to elect someone at the Spring Assembly. Father reminded everyone of the upcoming 2014 National Clergy Laity Conference to be held in Philadelphia in the month of July. Nomination of delegates for the Clergy-Laity Conference must be put on the Fall General Assembly agenda.

**2.** We lack storage space. Our storage areas need to be cleaned out to make room for necessary items. We don't know what is being stored.

It was discussed and decided that on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30A.M. we will have a fall clean up of storage areas.

**3.** Father's vestment closet has been completed. It is located in the hallway near the Sunday School classrooms.

**4.** We have had 3 Sunday School Coordinators since Father George has been here. Anna Napoleon has resigned as coordinator. She has done a wonderful job. We need to have a volunteer that can work with Father that has an understanding of the Faith.

**5.** A new printer is needed for the office as well as a folding machine.

**6.** Our 2 librarians Bruno Zovich and Janice Lampos are working on cataloguing the library and making it an Orthodox Christian resource. They are trying to set up Wi-Fi as well.

### **Secretary's Report:**

Mary Jo Tirikos announced that the new Philoptochos board has been ratified.

The officers are as follows:

Pres: Mary Jo Tirikos

V.P.: Mary Koucouthakis

Treasurer: Kelly Popyk

Advisor: Irene Walsh

There will be a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> following Divine Liturgy. A letter was received from the National Philoptochos President designating the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September as National Philoptochos Fellowship Sunday to meet the initiative to raise funds for the *Aid to Greece and Cyprus Campaign*.

### **President's Report:**

Hristos thanked Mary Jo Tirikos for filling in for John Madias today and to Anna Napoleon for her service to the church,

Our secretary Amber wanted to express her gratitude for all of our support during her sickness and healing. She has provided a binder with user names and passwords and a description of the secretary's duties in the event that something happens to her we will not be lost.

Anna Efthimiou is now doing the tax filing for the church. We will also ask her to advise us or the secretary on the proper coding of accounts.

### **Upcoming Dates:**

Tuesday, October 8th: Parish Council Meeting at 7:00 PM

Sunday, November 3rd: General Assembly Meeting

Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>: St. Andrew Feast Day Dinner Dance

Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>: Parish Council Meeting at 7:00 PM

Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>: Parish Council Meeting at 7:00 PM

June 6, 7, 8 2014: Grecian Festival

June 12, 13, 14 2015: Grecian Festival

### **Old Business:**

The responsibilities of the church secretary were discussed. It was suggested that the secretary's duties be presented in writing at the next meeting.

Nick Giannakakis confirmed the dates for Festival 2014 and 2015. He stated that we need to put down that the election of festival chairman needs to be on the Parish Assembly agenda.

### **New Business:**

The budget committee meets in October. Pano and Hristo will get together to put a proposed budget together. It needs to be put on the Fall General Assembly agenda.

**Pano Arvinitis made a motion to price a folding machine. Chris Strafford seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

### **Adjournment:**

**Dr. George Mighion motioned for adjournment. Tina Assimos seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

The meeting closed with a prayer.

# **THE DEFINITION OF A GREEK ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN AND PARISHIONER ACCORDING TO THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA**

ARTICLE 18, Sections 1-7 of the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of American state the following:

Section 1: Every person who is baptized and chrismated according to the rites of the Orthodox Church is a parishioner. The religious, moral and social duties of a parishioner are to **APPLY THE TENETS OF THE ORTHODOX FAITH to his/her life and to: ADHERE TO AND LIVE ACCORDING TO THE TENETS OF THE ORTHODOX FAITH; FAITHFULLY ATTEND THE DIVINE LITURGY AND OTHER WORSHIP SERVICES; PARTICIPATE REGULARLY IN THE HOLY SACRAMENTS; RESPECT ALL ECCLESIASTICAL AUTHORITY AND ALL GOVERNING BODIES OF THE CHURCH; BE OBEDIENT IN MATTERS OF FAITH, PRACTICE AND ECCLESIASTICAL ORDER; CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE PROGRESS OF THE CHURCH'S SACRED MISSION; and BE AN EFFECTIVE WITNESS AND EXAMPLE OF THE ORTHODOX FAITH AND TRADITIONS TO ALL PEOPLE.**

A parishioner in **GOOD STANDING practices ALL THE RELIGIOUS AND MORAL DUTIES as described in this Section 1.** At a minimum, a parishioner in good standing must: be eighteen (18) years of age or over; be current in his or her stewardship and other financial obligations to the Parish, abide by all the regulations herein stated and the Parish Bylaws; and cooperate in every way towards the welfare and well being of the Parish. (Stewardship is recommended to be ten percent (10 % of one's income as stated in Holy Scripture to help meet the financial obligations of the Parish, the Metropolis and the Archdiocese.)

Section 2: Any person wishing to be a parishioner in good standing in more than one Parish must remit his or her Stewardship financial obligation to each Parish as stated in Section 1 of this Article. A parishioner wishing to move from one Parish to another must present a letter of transfer from the Priest of the Parish from which he or she is moving stating that he or she is in good standing.

**Section 3: NO PERSON SHALL BE DEEMED A PARISHIONER IN GOOD STANDING WHILE: NOT ADHERING TO THE STANDARDS OUTLINED IN SECTIONS 1 AND 2 OF THIS ARTICLE;** retaining affiliation in an Orthodox Parish which defies the jurisdiction or the ecclesiastical authority of the Archdiocese; **BEING A MEMBER OF OR PRACTICING A NON-ORTHODOX FAITH OR OTHER RELIGION;** and **DELIBERATELY DISREGARDING AND TRANSGRESSING THE MORAL LAW OF THE CHURCH.**

Section 4: The Priest shall judge any cases of special circumstances justifying the waiver of a parishioner's stewardship financial obligations.

Section 5: A parishioner in good standing has the right to attend, participate and vote at Parish Assemblies, as well as to vote in Parish Council elections. Each such parishioner may also be nominated for election to the Parish Council or to represent the Parish at a Local Assembly or the Congress.

Section 6: An Orthodox Christian parishioner in good standing at his or her canonical Orthodox Parish may serve as a sponsor in another Parish without being obligated to become a member in good standing at the Parish where the sacrament will take place. A parishioner may serve as a sponsor in another Parish by presenting a letter of good standing from his or her home Parish Priest.

Section 7: Each Parish shall maintain a Parish Record which shall include, at a minimum, the following information concerning each parishioner: baptismal and family name, occupation (optional), dates of baptism and/or chrismation and marriage, complete family record of spouse and children, date of entry into the Parish indicating if transferred from another Parish, date of death, and such other information that shall be deemed appropriate.

## **ST. ANDREW PARISH BY-LAWS**

### **PARISHIONERS**

#### **Article 2, Section 5:**

For the purpose of determining a parishioner's entitlement to notice, or to vote at any Parish Assembly, or to make a determination of good standing for any other purpose, the parishioner must meet the following standards:

- A. A parishioner who has paid his/her stewardship pledge in **FULL FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND HAS SIGNED AND SUBMITTED HIS/HER STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARD FOR THE CURRENT YEAR IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AT THE SPRING PARISH ASSEMBLY.**
- B. A parishioner who has paid his/her stewardship pledge in **FULL** for the previous year and who has paid **SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT (75%) OF HIS/HER STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE FOR THE CURRENT YEAR** is eligible to vote at the **FALL PARISH ASSEMBLY** and in the election of Parish Council members.
- C. A new parishioner of the Parish may vote in a Parish Assembly or Election of Parish Council if he/she has been **ENROLLED AT LEAST THREE (3) MONTHS PRIOR THERETO.** His/her stewardship pledge must be fifty percent (50%) paid to be eligible to vote at the Fall Parish Assembly and the Election of Parish Council members.

#### **Section 6:**

Parishioners who sign a stewardship pledge card as a family (husband and wife) are each entitled to the rights and privileges of a parishioner in good standing provided that the provisions of the above Section 5 are met.

#### **Section 7:**

The waiver of a parishioner's financial obligation by the Priest shall not exclude his/her name from the roster of parishioners in good standing.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PRIEST AND PARISH COUNCIL ARE OBLIGATED BY THE ARCHDIOCESE TO IMPLEMENT THE UNIFORM PARISH REGULATIONS AS WELL AS THE PARISH BY LAWS. IT IS UP TO EVERY ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN TO COMPLY AND TO ADHERE TO THEM. THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION**

## ARTICLE 17 OF THE UNIFORM PARISH REGULATIONS OF THE ARCHDIOCESE--CLERGY

Section 1: The Priest by virtue of his canonical ordination and assignment heads and administers the Parish and exercises on its behalf the priestly duties, which consist in shepherding the Parish entrusted to his care, directing its orderly life, preserving its unity and keeping it faithful to its divine purpose. He shall sanctify his parishioners through the administration of the sacraments and the performance of all other prescribed services of worship. He shall also proclaim the Gospel and impart knowledge of the doctrines, traditions, canons and discipline of the Church. Further, he shall guide the growth and progress of the Parish the Christian life through the performance of his pastoral duties. Priests are accountable to their respective Hierarch and will submit a report of their ministry to him at least annually. The Eparchial Synod shall determine the format for these reports.

Section 2: Clergy entering the Archdiocese from the Holy Cross School of Theology, or otherwise, shall be initially assigned by the Archbishop in consultation with the respective Hierarch...

- A. In accordance with the canons and ecclesiastical procedure, neither the Parish Council nor the Parish Assembly is authorized to dismiss a Priest.
- B. All transfers and assignments and changes in a Priest's status shall be reported to the Archdiocese in a timely manner.

Section 3: The Priest shall have charge of all matters pertaining to the spiritual life and growth of the Parish, including, but not limited to, divine worship and related personnel. He shall determine the usage of all sacred vessels and appointments. He shall personally maintain the register books for all marriages, baptisms, chrismations, and funerals that take place at the Parish. In addition, the Priest must submit registry records in a timely manner. He shall also promptly submit all required civil marriage license and documents to the appropriate governmental authorities in a timely manner.

Section 11: It shall be mandatory for each Priest to join and maintain current his participation in the Archdiocesan Pension Program and the Orthodox Health Plan in accordance with the provisions of said program/health plan.

(For all other articles pertaining to the Clergy please consult your pamphlet of the U.P.R)

# CHAPTER TWO

## ARTICLE 24

### PARISH COUNCIL

Section 1: To serve on a Parish Council is a ministry and all those who serve are called to represent Christ and the Orthodox Faith to all whom they meet in all aspects of life. The Parish Council shall consist of the Priest, as the head of the Parish, and a number of elected lay members fixed by the Parish Bylaws or by local statute according to the needs of the Parish. The Parish Council is responsible to the Parish Assembly and to the respective Hierarch for conducting all Parish affairs in keeping with the mission, aims and purposes of the Church as set forth in the Charter and these Regulations...The Priest shall be a non-voting member of the Parish Council.

Section 5: A vacancy on the Parish Council shall be considered to exist in the event of: the death or resignation of a member; the physical or mental incapacity of a member of a member; the invalidation of the election of a member; or the failure of a member to be current in his Stewardship financial obligations to the Parish.

- A. Removal from the Parish Council shall be considered when a member: (1) is not or has ceased to be loyal to the doctrines, canons, worship, discipline, customs and practices of the Church; (2) is in violation of these Regulations or the Hierarchical Encyclicals of the Archdiocese; (3) does not recognize the duly constituted ecclesiastical authorities of the Metropolis or Archdiocese; (4) is guilty of a serious moral transgression; or (5) has violated his or her affirmation of office; or (6) has engaged in actions which do not further the administrative or spiritual well being of the Parish, the Metropolis or the Archdiocese.
- B. In the event that the Priest believes that the removal of a Parish Council member is required for one of the reasons listed in subsections (1) through (5) above, the Priest shall submit his recommendation, in writing, for the removal of the member to the respective Hierarch.
- C. If, the respective Hierarch, upon the recommendation of the Priest, or for any other reason, determines that the removal of a Parish Council member is necessary for one or more of the reasons listed in subsections (1) through (5) above, the respective Hierarch shall render a decision regarding the matter and shall notify the Priest and Parish Council of such decision. If any member (s) of the Parish Council is (are) removed, the matter shall not be brought before a Parish Assembly.
- D. Prior to removing all or a majority of the members of a Parish Council for any reason (s) during the same twelve (12) month period, the respective Hierarch shall consult with and obtain the consent of the Synod.
- E. When an individual or individuals are removed from the Parish Council by the respective Hierarch, , the vacancy(ies) created shall be filled through direct appointment by the respective Hierarch, with a recommendation from the Priest and Parish Council, from among the Parish's parishioners in good standing to fulfill the term of the person removed. The interim Parish Council shall serve for such period of time as the Hierarch may determine, but in no event longer than twelve (12) months.

Section 8: All newly appointed members who fill a vacancy of the Parish Council, must attend a Parish Council Seminar to be conducted by the Priest prior to taking the affirmation of office and assuming the duties of their position.

(Please turn to your pamphlet on the U.P.R. for articles omitted)

# St. Andrew's Renovation and Endowment Fund, Inc. (SAREF)

SAREF consists of two separate funds, Renovation and Endowment.

The Renovation Fund consists of restricted assets whose purpose is to provide for the long term repair and renovation needs of St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church with regards to its physical structures and fixtures. Once assets are deposited in the Renovation Fund they are intended to be held indefinitely. Regular disbursements may be issued upon a majority vote of the SAREF Board of Directors. Regular disbursements within a given year cannot exceed 5% of the market value of the Renovation Fund. The current balance of the Renovation fund is **\$19,928.27**

The Endowment Fund consists of restricted assets whose purpose is that of an emergency reserve of St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church. Once assets are deposited into the Endowment Fund they are intended to be held indefinitely. All interest, dividends and other income on the Endowment Fund shall accrue except that only 50% of that income shall be annually transferred and added to the Renovation Fund and subject to withdrawal. NO disbursements of any kind may be taken from the Endowment Fund unless the principal of the Fund is in the amount of \$500,000 and any disbursements MAY NOT decrease the fund to less than \$500,000. The Endowment Fund will never be liable for any debts or obligations of St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church. The current balance of the Endowment Fund is **\$141,976.67**.

Full copies of the SAREF Bylaws are available through the Church office.

The 2013 Saint Andrew Renovation and Endowment Fund Board of Directors is: Tom Limberopoulos, President; Alex Himonas, Vice President; John Madias, Secretary; Christ Kurtis, Treasurer and John Magrames.

Everyone is encouraged to donate towards the fund. Please make it clear, when doing so, if your donation is to go to the Endowment or the Renovation fund.

## SAREF (ST. ANDREW'S RENOVATION AND ENDOWMENT FUND, INC.)

I will be pledging as: Individual  Family  Business  For: Renovation  Endowment  Pledge Year: 20

Name (1): \_\_\_\_\_ Name (2): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone (1): \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone (2): \_\_\_\_\_

In gratitude for God's blessings, I/we pledge to contribute for Christ's continued work at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church at the level of:

Goodwill \$1,000  Bronze Member \$5,000  Silver Member \$10,000  Gold Member \$25,000

Platinum Member \$50,000  Benefactor \$75,000  Great Benefactor \$100,000

MEGAS EVERGETIS, above \$100,000 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ One Time Gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment made: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ monthly \$ \_\_\_\_\_ quarterly \$ \_\_\_\_\_ semi-annually \$ \_\_\_\_\_ annually

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year I have pledged \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in my will

Signature: (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Make payments to: SAREF (St. Andrew's Renovation and Endowment Fund, Inc.)

Please detach and send this portion with your payment to: 52455 N. Ironwood Road, South Bend, IN 46635

# Protocol for Inviting Orthodox Clergy to Sacraments

It should be noted that if you are inviting an Orthodox Priest or Bishop to participate in a sacrament (Baptism, Wedding or Funeral) the following is the proper protocol to follow:

1. Before an invitation is extended to the visiting clergy, you should **FIRST** get permission from your parish priest to do so.
2. If the invited clergy accepts the invitation, he should then extend a courtesy call to the parish priest to express his desire to participate in the sacrament or funeral service.
3. If the visiting clergy is serving a Metropolis other than the one where the sacrament is taking place, he will need to secure permission

to participate in the sacrament from his home Metropolis AND the Metropolis he will be entering (Chicago). This is the current policy of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and all Metropolises.

4. Once the invite has been extended and accepted the family inviting the visiting clergy **MUST** assume all expenses associated with the visit, i.e. traveling, hotel, stipend, etc.

The above procedures are to be followed throughout the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Non-Orthodox clergy may be invited to ATTEND the sacrament, but they may NOT PARTICIPATE

## Wedding Information

**A NECESSARY REQUIREMENT:** No wedding can be booked with the church office UNTIL the prospective couple meets with Father George. The Orthodox parishioner must make an appointment for the couple to discuss the marriage ceremony and various documents needed for the wedding to take place at the parish.

Everyone is asked to remember, that although weddings are happy occasions, we should still be respectful of the fact we are in Church. For rehearsals everyone should be dressed appropriately for church. Wedding gowns should not be sleeveless or strapless unless there is a jacket to go over it. The same for bridesmaids' dresses. If you are using the Church facilities to dress, please clean them up when you are finished. We should also remember to be respectful; no clapping after the ceremony, no loud voices, only Orthodox liturgical music and the traditional wedding march is allowed. The receiving line should be outside the building not the Narthex or Church proper. **NO RICE ALLOWED INSIDE THE CHURCH.**

**Days when Marriage is not permitted:**

No Wednesdays or Fridays, September 14, December 13-25, January 5-6, Great Lent and Holy Week, Pascha (Easter), Eve of Pentecost, Pentecost, August 1-15 August 29. Any exceptions are made only with the permission of the respective hierarch.

**Affidavit for License to Marry:**

The Affidavit should be submitted to the Department of Registry, Metropolis of Chicago NO LESS THAN FOUR MONTHS prior to the anticipated date of wedding. In rare cases of absolute necessity only, the Metropolis will allow communication by facsimile to request permission to marry. In that the required documents have been mailed. By oikonomia,

permission may be given under the full responsibility of the Priest.

**Required Information:** The exact date of the wedding, exact birth dates and baptism dates, the city, state and country of birth, religion, occupation, date of moving into the Metropolis of Chicago, and the Archdiocese Card number or parish receipt number (for the Orthodox partner) are ALL required. Any previous marriage must be noted, as well as the date of completing the form. **THE AFFIDAVIT WILL BE RETURNED WITHOUT PERMISSION TO PERFORM THE WEDDING IF ANY OF THESE ARE NOT COMPLETED.** Both the first and last names of the bride and groom should be recorded in BOTH GREEK AND ENGLISH if they are of Greek descent.

For the Bride: the last name should be her family name or that of a previous spouse. The name of a present spouse should never be used, even if she does use it due to a civil marriage, because the wedding has not yet taken place ECCLESIASTICALLY.

**Required Documentation:**

1. A certificate that the person is free to marry is required for anyone who has come from another Metropolis after the age of 16. If from another country, this must be issued from the Metropolis in which the person was born and NOT from the parish or community. If from another Metropolis of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, this must be issued from the home parish and verified by the local Metropolitan. Originals ONLY; fax or photocopy is UNACCEPTABLE.
2. If widowed, a certificate of death of the spouse from the previous Orthodox marriage is required.

3. If ecclesiastically divorced, the ORIGINAL divorce Decree is required. If civilly divorced from a non-ecclesiastical marriage, the Priest must see the civil divorce to verify it, but it does not need to be submitted.
4. Form 165 must be submitted by each petitioner if any previous marriage has taken place, be it ECCLESIASTICAL or CIVIL.
5. In any case where one of the two applicants is a non-Orthodox Christian, a photocopy of the person's baptismal certificate must be provided. In the case where the party does not belong to one of the Christian communions, whose baptism is known to be Trinitarian in formula, then a statement from his/her church verifying the fact that the baptism was performed in the Name of the Holy Trinity must be included, along with photocopy certificate, or a signed statement from the petitioning Priest, verifying baptism was Trinitarian in formula.
6. Written consent is required of BOTH parents for any bride or groom under 18 years of age.

***A cashier's check or money order made payable to the "Metropolis of Chicago" for \$100 filing fee is required to go with the paperwork.***

#### **ITEMS NECESSARY FOR THE MYSTERION OF MARRIAGE**

1. Civil license
2. Ecclesiastical license
3. Crowns and two candles
4. Wedding bands (rings)
5. The koumbaro(a) must be in good standing with the Church i.e., must be "baptized and chrismated according to the rites of the Orthodox Church. The religious, moral and social duties of a parishioner are to apply the tenets of the Orthodox Faith to his/her life and to: adhere to and live according to

the tenets of the Orthodox faith; faithfully attending the Divine Liturgy and other worship services; participate regularly in the holy sacraments; respect all ecclesiastical authority and all governing bodies of the Church; be obedient in matters of the Faith, practice and ecclesiastical order; contribute towards the progress of the Church's sacred mission; and be an effective witness and example of the Orthodox Faith and Traditions to all people...be current in his or her stewardship and other financial obligations to the Parish." (Uniform Parish Regulations of the Holy Archdiocese of America). If he/she is a member of another Orthodox parish they MUST bring a letter of good standing from his/her parish priest.

6. Please Note: If the koumbaro(a) was married and divorced civilly but NOT ecclesiastically they CANNOT participate in the sacrament of marriage or any other sacrament of the Church.
7. Orthodox Christians who have absented themselves from the Church for many years deliberately cannot consider themselves in good standing with the Church. Before participating in any of the sacraments he/she must first meet with the parish priest and enter the Church through the sacrament of Holy Confession and Penance.
8. "No person shall be deemed a parishioner in good standing while: NOT adhering to the standards outlined in Sections 1 and 2 of this Article; retaining affiliation in an Orthodox Parish which defies the jurisdiction of the ecclesiastical authority of the Archdiocese; being a member or practicing a non-Orthodox faith or other religion; and deliberately disregarding and transgressing the moral law of the Church"(Article 18, Section 3 of the UPR).

## **Ecclesiastical Divorce**

Petitions for Ecclesiastical Divorce must include 5 items:

1. The Petitioner's Application. This should include all the requested information, especially the phone numbers and zip codes of both the petitioner and spouse, and their birthplaces. The petitioner should explain why the marriage deteriorated in their own words.
2. The Statement of the Petitioning Priest
3. The Original Certificate of Marriage. Since they are divorcing, they no longer need the original. (They may retain photocopies.) If the Original is lost, an Official Transcript issued by the parish in which the wedding took place is acceptable.

4. The Decree of Dissolution of Marriage issued by the Civil Court. This document will be retained by the Metropolis Office.
5. A money Order or Cashier's Check of \$200 made payable to the "Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago." Personal checks are **NOT** acceptable. The Petitioner must be a steward (supporting member) of the local parish of the current year.

#### **REMINDERS;**

- A. The Petitioner is expected to attend a hearing before the Spiritual Court at the Metropolis in Chicago. The other spouse is also invited to attend the Spiritual Court.

- B. Under NO circumstances plan or arrange a marriage until the Ecclesiastical Decree of Divorce is IN HAND
- C. Divorce petitions can ONLY be submitted by the Parish Priest.
- D. **Anyone who has NOT received the Ecclesiastical Divorce is NOT permitted to receive any of the Sacraments, be a sponsor at a baptism or koumbaro/koumbara at an Orthodox wedding.**

PLEASE NOTE: It is understood that the Orthodox couple that is experiencing marital difficulties will make it a point to meet with their Parish Priest to confront their differences from a spiritual perspective and to find out if there is any possibility of a reconciliation and to better understand why the marriage deteriorated before they file for a Civil Divorce.

After the Ecclesiastical Divorce has been issued the Petitioning spouse is expected to participate in the Mysterion (Sacrament) of Holy Confession before resuming participation in Holy Communion. In accordance with prevailing practice of the Church, as directed by the very words of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, "Whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery." (Matt. 5:32) An ecclesiastical divorce is granted first of all only because of adultery. In such cases, the divorce is given only to the wronged party, not to the party that betrayed the marital trust or brought dishonor to the marriage. St. Paul the Apostle says, "If a woman should separate from her husband for the reason of adultery, let her remain single." (Corinth. 7:11). The same thing holds true, of course, for the husband who is guilty of adultery.

It is true that our Church has decided, through compassion and for reasons of "oikonomia" that a second marriage is permitted in certain cases but only after an ecclesiastical divorce is rendered to dissolve the first one. But the Church also remembers that there

## ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣΤΙΚΑ ΔΙΑΖΥΓΙΑ

Σύμφωνως πρὸς τὴν Ἁγίαν Γραφήν, ὁ Κύριος λέγει: Ἐρρέθη δὲ ὡς ἂν ἀπολύση τὴν γυναῖκα αὐτοῦ, δότω αὐτὴ ἀποστάσιον. Ἐγὼ δὲ λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι ὡς ἂν ἀπολύση τὴν γυναῖκα αὐτοῦ παρεκτός λόγου πορνείας, ποιεῖ αὐτὴν μοιχάσθαι, καὶ ὡς εἰάν ἀπολελυμένη γαμήσῃ, μοιχάται (κατὰ Ματθαῖον 5, 31-32). Ἡ ἐρμηνεία ἔχει ὡς ἐξῆς: «Ἀκόμη ἐλέχθη, ὅποιος χωρίσῃ τὴν γυναῖκα του, ἂς τῆς δώσῃ γραπτὸν διαζύγιον. Ἐγὼ ὅμως σὰς λέγω ὅτι ὅποιος χωρίσῃ τὴν γυναῖκα του χωρὶς τὴν αἰτίαν τῆς μοιχείας τὴν σπρώχνει εἰς τὴν μοιχείαν (διότι μοιχεία εἶναι πλέον, εἰάν αὐτὴ ἔλθῃ εἰς

are certain instances when a second marriage is never permitted.

This is especially true for a marriage that will lead to derision and complete derision and complete defilement of the sanctity of this sacrament.

To keep you properly informed and instructed, we are enumerating below the instances in which our Church, with great sorrow and pain is forced to dissolve a legal and canonically contracted marriage. Divorce is given is given and considered valid:

1. Adultery
2. Apostasy
3. Bigamy
4. Deceit, coercion, fear, mental emotional and physical abuse
5. Mental illness
6. Impotency or sexually transmitted disease (kept secret prior or during marriage)
7. Abortion
8. Conspiring against the life or honor of one's spouse
9. Lengthy separation or abandonment of spouse
10. When one of the spouses is lawfully convicted or imprisoned for a lengthy period of time.
11. Immoral behavior with others.
12. Various addictions which lead to the destruction of harmonious family relationships.
13. Refusal of childbearing.

### **Non-Petitioning Spouse's Request for Official Copy**

After the Ecclesiastical Divorce has been issued, the spouse may also request an official copy of the decree through his/her Parish Priest. A simple written request should be submitted to the Priest by the spouse, along with a money order of \$200.00, payable to the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago.

The issuance of the copy is NOT AUTOMATIC; depending on the circumstances of the divorce, it is possible for the request NOT to be granted.

It is most important to remember that the Ecclesiastical Decree should be kept in safe place since it CANNOT be replaced or reissued. The Original Decree will be REQUIRED should he/she decide to remarry.

νέον γάμον, ἐφ' ὅσον ζῆ ὁ πρῶτος τῆς ἀνδρας). Καὶ ἐκεῖνος ποῦ θὰ λάβῃ ὡς σύζυγον διεζευγμένη γυναῖκα, διαπράττει μοιχείαν».

Ἐκκλησιαστικὸ διαζύγιον παρέχεται, κατ' ἀρχὴν, μόνον δια λόγους μοιχείας καὶ συζυγικῆς ἀπιστίας.

Παρά τὸ ὅτι ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας συγκαταβατικῶς καὶ κατ' οἰκονομίαν ἠνέχθη καὶ δευτερον γάμον, εἰς τινὰς περιπτώσεις, καὶ μετὰ τὴν ἐκδοσὶν ἐκκλησιαστικοῦ διαζυγίου, αὐτὴ ἐνεκα ἐιδικῶν λόγων δὲ ἐπιτρέπει δευτερον γάμον.

Εκκλησιαστικά διαζύγια εκδίδονται επίσης εις περιπτώσεις κατά τὰς οποίας ἐξεδόθη πολιτικὸν διαζύγιον, καὶ τὰ σχετιζόμενα άτομα ἐπιθυμοῦν τὴν ομαλοποίησιν τῆς ἐκκλησιαστικῆς καταστάσεώς των, δια λόγους συμμετοχῆς τῶν εις τὴν Μυστηριακὴν ζωὴν τῆς Ἐκκλησίας.

Εἰς περιπτώσεις μικτῶν γάμων, κατὰ τὰς οποίας τὸ μὴ ὀρθόδοξον μέλος ἀρνεῖται νὰ συμμετάσχῃ εἰς τὴν διαδικασίαν τοῦ Ἐκκλησιαστικοῦ διαζυγίου, τὸ διαζύγιον παρέχεται εἰς τὸ ὀρθόδοξον μέλος.

Με βαθεῖα θλίψιν καὶ ὀδύνην, ἡ Ἐκκλησία ἐπιτρέπει τὴν διάλυσιν τοῦ γάμου ἐνεκα σοβαρῶν λόγων. Μεταξὺ αὐτῶν, οἱ κάτωθι συνιστοῦν βασίμους λόγους πρὸς αἴτησιν ἐκκλησιαστικοῦ διαζυγίου:

1. Μοιχεία
2. Ἀποστασία
3. Διγαμία
4. Ἐξαπάτησις, ἐξαναγκασμός, φόβος, διανοητικὴ, συναισθηματικὴ καὶ σωματικὴ κακοποίησις

## Baptismal Information

*“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit...”* (St. Matthew 28:19) Jesus also says, “I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he CANNOT enter the kingdom of God” (St. John 3:50.) If we had only these two statements of Our Lord to rely upon, we would know clearly that Baptism is a necessity for salvation, and that it is the duty of Orthodox Christians to lead others to it.

It is apparent from the New Testament evidence that there are four (4) primary dimensions to the event of Baptism:

1. In Baptism we are made partakers of the Divine Nature. Therein, we are incorporated into the death and resurrection of Christ and are made one with Him.
2. In baptism, we are cleansed of our previous sinfulness. We are brought into a new state of being with regard to God: “...but you are washed, you are sanctified, but you are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of God (1 Cor. 6:11).
3. Baptism is a new birth, making us new men and women. The new birth comes through “water and the Spirit.” It is given “...according to His mercy...by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit...(Titus 3:5)
4. Baptism is an enlightenment, an illumination, a movement from the darkness of fallen mankind into union with “the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world” (St. John 1:9). The early holy Fathers of the Church almost always referred to Baptism as “illumination.”

- Ψυχικαὶ ἀσθένειαι
5. Ἀνικανότης ἢ γενετήσιοι μεταδοτικαὶ ἀσθένειαι (αἱ οποῖαι ἀπεκρύβησαν πρὸ ἢ κατὰ τὴν διάρκειαν τοῦ γάμου)
  6. Ἐκτρωσις
  7. Ἐπιβουλὴ κατὰ τῆς ζωῆς ἢ τιμῆς τῆς/τοῦ συζύγου
  8. Μακροχρόνιος χωρισμός ἢ ἐγκατάλειψις τοῦ/τῆς συζύγου
  9. Νόμιμος καταδίκη ἢ φυλάκισις ἐνός ἐκ τῶν συζύγων διὰ μεγάλην χρονικὴν περίοδον
  10. Ἀνήθικος συμπεριφορὰ μετὰ ἄλλων προσώπων
  11. Ποικίλαι ἐξαρτήσεις, αἱ οποῖαι ὀδηγοῦν εἰς καταστροφὴν τῶν ἀρμονικῶν οἰκογενειακῶν σχέσεων
  12. Ἄρνησις τεκνογονίας
- Μετὰ πατρικῆς ἐν Χριστῷ ἀγάπης καὶ εὐχῶν,  
Ὁ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Ἀμερικῆς Δημήτριος  
Πρόεδρος Ἱεράς Ἐπαρχιακῆς Συνόδου

### SPONSORS OR GODPARENTS:

At baptism we have sponsors or godparents who must be of the Orthodox Christian Faith since they undertake to assist in the religious nurture of the child. The sponsor should be a practicing Orthodox Christian who realizes that he/she must keep in touch with his/her godchild and help him or her grow in the Orthodox Christian faith especially by his/her own godly example. A potential sponsor or godparent should go to Confession before participating in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Also the sponsor should be present at the 40 day blessing of the child along with the child’s parents.

**Please Note:** When one baptizes a child in the Orthodox Church, both the parents and the sponsor make a commitment to raise the child in the Orthodox Church. **For children out of wedlock (outside of an Orthodox marriage), both the Orthodox and non Orthodox parent must be willing and consent to the baptism and willing to raise the child in the Orthodox Christian Faith.**

**ITEMS NEEDED FROM THE GODPARENTS:**  
**A Letter of Good Standing from their parish priest with the parish seal, stating he/she is a member in good standing, SPIRITUALLY and financially.**  
Lathopana (large white sheet, non-absorbent to retain oil on child), one white bath towel, two white hand towels, white undershirt & diaper for infant (white underwear for older child), bathing suit for older child, small container of olive oil, bar of soap, large white decorated candle, two smaller white candles, Orthodox cross with chain and the child’s Orthodox Christian name.

Immediately following the Baptism:

1. The Sponsor receives the infant in his/her outstretched arms upon which the large white sheet lays and does NOT cover the children until the child has been chrismated by the Priest.
2. There are 4 lathopana (oil undergarments);
  - a. The oil sheet
  - b. The oil hat
  - c. The oil undershirt
  - d. The oil underwear or cloth diaper

**Please Note:** The lathopana (oil cloth garments) are made of the purest cotton fabric which does NOT absorb the holy oil that the child has been anointed with during the Sacrament of Baptism. It is important that the holy oil stay on the body of the child as long as possible.

This is why the baptized child should not be bathed for three (3) days following his/her baptism. And when bathed, the water should NOT be discarded in the sewer but should be collected and poured in a large

body of water, i.e. river, lake, sea. When the cloth diaper is soiled by the child it should be washed separately and after that the parent may replace it with a regular disposable diaper.

It is also the Orthodox tradition to save the white sheet used at Baptism and not used for any other purpose.

The white sheet is symbolic of the shroud of the baptized person and it is used once again at the burial of that Orthodox Christian when that day comes.

Baptisms **may not** be performed on the following days unless it is absolutely necessary and permission is obtained from the Diocesan Bishop:

December 25-January 6,

Holy Week,

Major Feast Days of the Lord.

**FROM THE PARENTS:** A cashier's check or money order made payable to the "Metropolis of Chicago" for \$50 is due the day of Baptism

**Baptismal Pamphlets** are available for \$1.50 each

## The Pastoral Care of the Sick

The pastoral care of the sick and dying has always been an integral part of the Church's mission entrusted to it by its Divine Founder: "I was sick and you visited me" (Saint Matthew 25:36). This ministry (diakonia) finds sacramental expression in the rites of anointing. Saint James the Holy Apostle writes in his epistle: "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the presbyters of the Church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven" (St. James 5:14-15).

It is important to understand that an Orthodox Christian must always be spiritually prepared for the unexpected and spiritually in "good standing" in order to receive the Mystera (Sacraments) of the Church. Also, that he or she request the sacraments i.e., Holy Communion or Holy Unction while he/she is still conscious and understands what he/she is receiving.

An unconscious or comatose person cannot receive the sacraments. In those cases the priest may offer prayers.

The necessary Mysterion or Sacrament for the Orthodox Christian at risk of dying is the sacrament of Penance and Confession because it requires repentance and through it one receives forgiveness of sins. There is no repentance after death.

There is NO "last rites" or "extreme unction" in our Church. Therefore, there is no need for family members of a dying person to become anxious at a dying relative. Your parish priest brings and offers the sacraments to all who are sick when he visits them at the hospital or home. This does not mean that you shouldn't call your priest to be there, only that the person has received the sacraments and is spiritually prepared. The priest is always available for the person and the family

## Funeral Information

**When a loved one dies, please contact Father George immediately and he will come pray a Trisagion with the family at the bedside of the deceased before his/her body is taken to the mortuary in preparation for the funeral.**

In consultation with Father and the funeral home, set the days and times for the viewing, Trisagion and Funeral Service.

**The Trisagion** is a brief service, not more than 10 minutes in length, during which we pray that the Lord will grant forgiveness of sins and rest to the soul of the deceased "in the bosom of Abraham" (Luke 16:22-23)

with Christ and the saints where "there is no pain, no sorrow and no suffering" (Rev. 21:4)

**The Orthodox Funeral Service** is held at the Church and is normally about an hour long. The Funeral Service consists primarily of the singing of verses from Psalm 119, a series of hymns on the meaning of life and death composed by St. John of Damascus (676-749AD), Scripture readings from St. Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> letter to the Thessalonians (4:13-18) and the Gospel of John (5:24-30) and a brief homily/eulogy by the priest.

Commonly, the priest will meet the family with the casket outside the church and escort the deceased into the nave. The casket will be placed on the solea facing East (feet

towards the altar). The Orthodox Tradition is to have an open casket during the Funeral Service to acknowledge the reality of death and allow for last respects. The hope and joy of the resurrection is expressed in the priest wearing white vestments during the service. The priest prays the service and the worshippers are encouraged to join in the singing of the hymns and the responses. After the final prayer, the priest usually offers a sermon to share the inspirational message of Christ's teaching regarding life, death and eternal life. He will also incorporate, where appropriate, important aspects of the deceased's life to further personalize the message. **(Point of information: our Tradition as Orthodox Christians is that *only* the priest offers the eulogy during services in Church. Family members and friends who wish to speak and share memories may do so at the Makaria.)**

At the conclusion of the service, everyone present at the service is invited to come forward and kiss an icon of the Resurrection and offer their final respects to the deceased. **(Point of information: The family should be allowed a few minutes for a private goodbye. Everyone is asked to leave the Church proper and exit into the Fellowship Hall and remain quiet for the family to do so.)**

The priest anoints the body in the form of cross will oil and earth reciting several verses from Scripture: "Wash me with hyssop and I shall be pure; cleanse me and I shall be whiter than snow" (Psalm 51:7) and "You are dust and unto dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). He then escorts the deceased out of church with the family and others following behind.

According to the Holy Orthodox Tradition and practice, the deceased is covered with a shroud, which has been blessed. ***Please contact the office if you should need one.***

Following the Funeral Service held at the church the deceased is taken to the cemetery where another Trisagion is prayed at the graveside. The deceased is then lowered into his/her grave to await the Second Coming of Christ and, as we confess in the Creed at every celebration of the Liturgy, "the resurrection of the dead and the life of the age to come."

**Makaria or Meal of Blessing:** Following the graveside service it is customary to invited everyone to a meal called, in Greek, the Makaria. (If you would like to use the Good Samaritan Cultural Center for the Makaria, please contact Callahan's Catering at 574-903-6272.) Our Tradition as Orthodox Christians is for the main dish at the Makaria to be some kind of plaki (broiled fish). This is because the first meal the Lord Jesus ate with His disciples following His Resurrection consisted of broiled fish and bread, as recorded in John 21:12-13. As this meal is a reminder of Christ's Resurrection and His closeness to those who believe in Him, it is **NOT** appropriate to serve meat.

**Regarding Cremation:** *Because the Orthodox Faith affirms the fundamental goodness of creation, it understands the body to be an integral part of the human person and the temple of the Holy Spirit, and expects resurrection of the dead. The Church considers cremation to be the deliberate desecration and destruction of what God has made and ordained for us. Therefore, the Church does not grant funerals, either in the sanctuary or at any other place, to persons who have chosen to be cremated. Additionally, memorial services with kollyva are not allowed in such instances.*

**Regarding Suicide:** *Suicide, the taking of one's own life, is self-murder and as such, a sin. More importantly, it may be evidence of a lack of faith in our loving, forgiving God. If a person has committed suicide as a result of a belief that it is rationally or ethically defensible, the Orthodox Church denies that person a Church funeral, because such actions and beliefs separate a person from the community of faith.*

The Church shows compassion, however on those who have taken their life as a result of mental illness or severe emotional stress, when a condition of impaired rationality can be verified by a physician.

**Important Please Note:** According to our Holy Orthodox Christian Tradition, all Orthodox Christians in spiritual good standing with the Church must be given a funeral service conducted in the local parish. The wishes of the deceased or family play no part in whether their loved one has a church funeral service or service in a funeral home chapel. The family needs to abide by the Orthodox Tradition and order of the Church. Again, according to our Orthodox Tradition there is no option or exception to this practice.

**Please Note:** *Orthodox Christians who are NOT in good standing, i.e., not married in the Orthodox Church, have not received an Ecclesiastical Divorce, etc, may only have a complete funeral service at the funeral home chapel. The deceased is not brought to the church for the funeral service.* The following items are needed: a table with a white tablecloth, 2 candlesticks with white candles, podium, microphone and an Icon of the Resurrection. All other items will be brought by Father.

Funerals cannot be held on Sundays or Holy Friday  
**Shrouds are available through the Church Office..**

# The Sacred Memorials for the Dead

*Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle”*  
(2 Thes. 2:15).

Prayers and Memorials:

“With the saints give rest, O Christ, to the souls of thy servants, where there is neither sickness, nor sorrow, nor sighing, but life everlasting.” So the Holy Orthodox Church prays for the faithful departed; and again: “O God of spirits and of all flesh, who has trampled down death and overthrown the Devil, and given life unto Thy world: Do Thou, the same Lord, give rest to the souls of Thy departed servants, in a place of light, refreshment, and repose, whence all pain, sorrow, and sighing have fled away. Pardon every transgression which they have committed, whether by word or deed or thought”.

Orthodox are convinced that Christians here on earth have a duty to pray for the departed, and they are confident that the dead are helped by such prayers. “In God and in His Church there is no division between the living and the departed, but all are one in the love of the Father.

Whether we are alive or whether we are dead, as members of the Church we still belong to the same family, and still have a duty to bear one another’s burdens. Therefore just as Orthodox Christians here on earth pray for one another and ask for one another’s prayers, so they pray also for the faithful departed and ask the faithful departed to pray for them. Death cannot sever the bond of mutual love which links the members of the Church together.” That Christian love endures is certain and strong even after death (1 Cor 13:8). Because our love remains, the Holy Orthodox Church has from the beginning established the practice of saying special prayers for those who have fallen asleep in the Lord, and on certain specified days it has memorials for them.

According to Saint John Chrysostom even the Holy Apostles had established the practice of prayers and memorials. According to Saint John of Damascus, the Disciples of the Savior and Holy Apostles are the ones who decreed that we remember the faithful who have fallen asleep in the Lord at the awesome holy and life giving mysteries.

The Church recognizes several days as formal commemoration that are:

1. **THE FOUR SOUL SATURDAYS.** These Saturdays are set aside by the Church for all Orthodox Christians, three during the Holy and Great Lent and one for the Saturday before Pentecost.
2. **THE THREE-DAY MEMORIAL.** The Apostolic Constitutions recommend that memorials for the dead be served with psalms and readings and prayers on the third day after death of our beloved one, on account of the Lord Jesus who rose after three days. Another reason for the three day memorial is the

notion that the deceased has kept the three virtues (the foundations of our faith) faith, hope and love as well as the fact that man acts and expresses himself with actions, words and thoughts.

3. **NINE-DAY MEMORIAL.** The Apostolic Constitutions also prescribe Memorials on the ninth day as a reminder of the living and of the dead, as well as on the fortieth day after death according to ancient practice. Saint Symeon of Thessaloniki attributes the nine-day memorial to the nine Orders of Holy Angels.
4. **FORTY-DAY MEMORIAL.** This memorial is for the Ascension of the Savior that took place forty days after His third day Resurrection. In addition to these we must have annual Memorials in remembrance of the deceased.

Please Note: Memorials may be held at three, six, and twelve months interval. **MAKARIA (BLESSING):** When one talks about memorials in the Orthodox Church it is inevitable that the issue of Makaria (blessing) and Kollyva will also be discussed. In the early Christian times, bread, wine, and olives or cheese or rice were offered. The offering of these gifts served the purpose of **CHARITY** (Philanthropia) and those who partook of them would pray: Blessed be his/her memory. This is why they were called Makaria and their origin can be found at the meals or the funeral meals of which the Apostolic Constitutions speak. It has nothing to do with the so called “honor” to the deceased.

Sometime during the middle of the 4<sup>th</sup> century the Kollyva (boiled wheat) prevailed over the other gifts, as they project a profound didactic symbolism. They symbolize the resurrection from the dead of the bodies. “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain” (St. John 12:24). Saint Symeon of Thessaloniki observes that in the Kollyva we add various other seeds (raisins, walnuts, almonds, sesame, and so on). However, the basic ingredient is always wheat because the Savior Himself likened His All Holy Body and His resurrection to wheat (St. John 12:24).

## BENEFITS OF MEMORIALS AND PRAYERS

We all know that when one dies that is the end for correcting mistakes, errors, and having a change of heart for the things that we did while alive. Why then do we as Orthodox Christians pray and have memorials for the souls of the departed? It is a critical question and indeed it has been addressed by many Holy Fathers of the Church.

All our prayers and memorials are petitions on behalf of the dead to God because we believe in His infinite mercy loving kindness and philanthropy as well as compassion.

Our courage for asking is based in 1 John 5:14-15 which says, "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of Him." Furthermore, our assumption of the petitions is based on the knowledge that "God desires all men to be saved" (1 Timothy 2:4), which according to Saint John of Damascus is what especially pleases and gladdens the compassionate Lord. He continues to emphasize the fact that our God wants very much that all of us be assisted by everyone both when living and after we die.

Saint John Chrysostom writes that prayers and memorials for the departed are BENEFICIAL. He says that it is a great honor to have your name commemorated at the time of the Divine Liturgy for they provide a certain consolation.

As we can see the Prayers and Memorials have been established by our Holy Orthodox Church both for those who have departed in repentance and for those who have departed in sin. The Church prays out of love for all.

IT IS OUR DUTY AND CHRISTIAN OBLIGATION TO REMEMBER OUR LOVED ONES AND TO CONDUCT MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR THEM SO THEIR SOULS MAY FIND COMFORT AND ETERNAL REST. AMEN.

•

**Please Note:** For any celebration (marriage, baptism, etc.), meats are not to be served if it is a *fasting period*. If there is meat, Father cannot attend or even bless the table. Father also cannot attend rehearsal dinners held on Friday nights if there is meat, as Friday is a fasting day. Thank you.

Please Note: The Formal Memorial Services of the Church may be conducted ONLY for Orthodox Christians. Your priest however does include the non-Orthodox Christians of his parish in his private or personal prayers.

Please Note: Memorial services may NOT be chanted from the Saturday of Lazarus through the Sunday of Thomas, on any Feastday of the Lord or any Feastday of the Theotokos.

#### ITEMS NEEDED FOR MEMORIALS:

- Bottle of Wine (St. John Commandaria or you may donate \$20 to the Church in lieu of bringing the bottle)
- One loaf of Prosforo
- Bottle of Olive Oil
- Kollyva

#### PLEASE NOTE:

**If you are not spiritually in good standing (not married in the church, not ecclesiastically divorced, children not baptized, etc.) please give Father George a call to discuss how to remedy this. Father is more than willing to work with our families to be sure they maintain their good standing. Thank you**

# Simple Ways to Make a Planned Gift

Here are a few simple ways to make a planned gift to your Church. These gifts don't require you to amend or create a Will and don't usually take much time to do. If you are not sure how much to give because you are not sure how much you will need, these methods donate amounts that are left after you are gone.

- Designate your Church as the beneficiary of your retirement account (e.g., IRA or 401(k) plan). (Your plan administrator can provide you with the appropriate beneficiary designation form.)
  - You may leave the entire account or a percentage of the proceeds to the Church.
  - You may name the Church as the primary beneficiary or as the contingent beneficiary.
- Designate your Church as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy you don't need. (Your life insurance agent can provide you with the appropriate beneficiary designation form.)
  - You may leave the entire policy or a percentage of the proceeds to the Church.
  - You may name the Church as the primary beneficiary or as the contingent beneficiary.
- Add a Payable on Death ("POD") or Transfer on Death ("TOD") designation to a bank or securities account so that the account assets are distributed to the Church on your death.
- Establish a pattern of giving to your Church and authorize your Attorney-in-Fact to continue that pattern on your behalf in the event that you become incompetent. If your parish participates in FaithDirect, you may establish your pattern of giving online and it will automatically deduct donations in the amount you designate from the account you direct.
- Direct family members to request that memorial donations be made to your Church on your death.

*Please contact your parish priest or a member of your parish's Planned Giving Committee to obtain the legal name of your parish and its tax identification number. You can also contact these Archdiocesan offices for more information on a confidential, no-obligation basis.*

Stewardship Ministries      Tel 646-519-6160    email [Stewardship@goarch.org](mailto:Stewardship@goarch.org)

Office of Parish Development    Tel 847-478-5275    email [JMinetos@Goarch.org](mailto:JMinetos@Goarch.org)

*Your final plans should always be discussed and reviewed with your attorney and/or financial advisor.*



## STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES

DEPARTMENT OF STEWARDSHIP, OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

307 West 54th Street • New York, NY 10019

646/519-6160 • [Stewardship@goarch.org](mailto:Stewardship@goarch.org)

## Gifts of Appreciated Stock (non-IRA assets for any age donor)

The stock market has performed well the last few years. Many people have owned some stocks for years that have appreciated. As a result, many families today are considering ways to leverage the value of their stock in support of charitable organizations in order to realize the following:

- A gift of appreciated stock to charity preserves 100% of the value, which allows the charity to sell and bypass the capital gains tax (the donor does not pay capital gains tax on the appreciation of the stock value).
- A gift of appreciated stock triggers a charitable income tax deduction that results in actual cash savings to the donor.

## Tax Free Gift from your IRA if over age 70 1/2

- Your financial institution must make check payable to St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church directly from your IRA
- You must be 70 ½ years old or older in 2013
- This gift can count toward your required minimum distribution.
- You can give any amount up to \$100,000
- You cannot claim this gift as a charitable deduction since the distribution is Federal Income Tax free.

***This information is intended to provide general guidance and is not a substitute for professional counsel. Consult your tax or legal advisor for professional guidance.***

# St. Andrew's Bishop Philotheos Library

## MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of St. Andrew's Bishop Philotheos Library (established March 1964) is to make both traditional and new media available to members of the parish, our educational ministries, inquirers after Orthodoxy, and members of the wider community seeking knowledge about Greek Orthodoxy and Hellenic culture. The scope of the collection will primarily focus on materials pertaining to Orthodox spirituality and praxis.

The majority of our resources will be in English, and another portion of our titles in Greek. Books in other languages will be considered if they meet the needs of our congregants. The library will seek to continually strengthen all areas of the collection and to broaden our engagement with the wider community and the world through technological advancement.

## STAFF:

Bruno Zovich, Librarian

Janice Lampos, Associate Librarian



Bishop Philotheos,  
served St. Andrew  
Parish 1926-1937

## CHECKOUT PROCEDURES:

Fill in a name and a date on the card in the back of the book and leave it in the box on the desk marked "Checkouts."

If there is no card, please use a piece of paper to write the title, your name and date and leave it in the box.

Books are available for a period of one month from the date they are checked out. We will have a computerized library program that will keep track of all books checked out.

## LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday-Friday 10am-2pm and Sundays following Liturgy

If you need assistance, Janice Lampos will be in the Library on Wednesdays 10am-1pm.

## GIFTS AND DONATIONS:

Any monetary gifts to go towards the purchase of books and maintaining the library are always greatly appreciated. Checks can be made payable to "St. Andrew's Bishop Philotheos Library"

## **THE LAMPOS POST**

This is truly an exciting time for the Bishop Philotheos Library. Besides converting to the Dewey Decimal System, which makes finding wanted books easier, it will be an all Orthodox library. Father George is graciously donating books from his personal library. What a wonderful addition to our collection. Thank you Father George. Also, periodically, new books will be added.

"The Jesus Prayer" How did it originate? Was it used in biblical times? The answers to these questions can be found in our newest book (2 copies) *Mysteries of the Jesus Prayer* by Norris J. Chumley with a foreword by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Mr. Chumley and the Very Rev. Dr. John A. McCuckin traveled to St. Anthony's Monastery in the Egyptian desert, St. Catherine's Monastery on Mt. Sinai and monasteries in Russia, the Ukraine and Greece in search of Christianity's first mystical tradition and its modern practitioners. The monastics he met taught him how to move through the stages of the Jesus Prayer and how it can foster an increasing and ever-deepening conversation with God.

Have you ever had a question regarding the Bible, where to find verses concerning certain situations, or understanding the verse? Need information on maps and the Lands of the Bible (where Jesus walked? What does "this word" mean? Well the library can help. We now have the new edition of the *Orthodox Study Bible*. It contains both the Old and New Testaments. It includes theological insights and aids including a glossary of definitions and a concordance. Yes-read, study and understand-helping to grow in our Faith

Have you been to the bookstore or the county library to use the computer search engine to find a book? Soon you will be able to do so at our Bishop Philotheos Library. Bruno Zovich and I are compiling a list of the library books which will be entered into the computer. When completed we will be able to more actively serve you. I am so excited by the library growth. Thank you God and thank you Father George for your continued guidance.--Janice Lampos

# Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago

## St. Iakovos Retreat Center

**A place to celebrate our Faith and Heritage:** Our Hellenic values are embedded in our Orthodox Faith, and the St. Iakovos Retreat Center provides an ideal environment in which to appreciate, celebrate and strengthen the Greek Orthodox Church community.

The Center is a place to reflect upon what we share—and to share in fellowship the precious spiritual, social and cultural gifts with which we have been bestowed.

With the frantic pace of life today, amidst the chaos in the world, finding a place of peace and quiet can be challenging. The beautiful, natural setting of the Center, with ample facilities for a wide array of gatherings, answers this challenge gracefully for members of our community.

**A place where God’s creation speaks:** Set on 137 breathtaking acres in Kenosha County, Wisconsin, the St. Iakovos Retreat Center is a testament to the wonder of the Lord’s creation. Away from worldly cares, this natural setting has 35 acres of original growth woods and hills, a sparkling eight-acre lake, streams, tree-lined paths, even a bountiful apple orchard. There are fenced pastures where horses roam, domesticated animals like llamas and dazzling peacocks, as well as wild deer and other creatures that dwell on the land. Where better to reflect upon the many gifts we have been given and how we should live our lives?

Centrally located to serve all parishes and communities within the Metropolis, the Center is 60 miles from Chicago and 35 miles from Milwaukee. It is easily accessible from all parishes of the Metropolis.

**A place for our youth to grow in their faith:** “Let alone the little children come to Me, and cease hindering them; for such is the kingdom of Heaven.” The St. Iakovos Retreat Center will greatly help us in reinforcing the loving qualities of children the Lord called attention to—and in bringing our children closer to God through our Faith.

An ideal pastoral setting, perfect for youth ministries, Fanari camps, and gatherings of our youth organizations like YAL and GOYA, the Center provides a safe yet stimulating environment for our children to meet, to gain greater understanding of our faith and its traditions, and to build the spiritual foundation that will serve them throughout their lives.

**A place of our own to benefit all of us:** For many years, the need for our retreat center has been a priority of His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago, the Clergy throughout our parishes, and the laity. Now, by and with the consent of the faithful, that need has been met in the St. Iakovos Retreat Center.

Groups and activities that will benefit immediately from the Center and its facilities includes: Family Synaxis, Metropolis Council, Philoptochos, YAL, GOYA, Fanari, Presvytera Sisterhood, Archons, Youth Ministries, Syndesmos, Social Programs (e.g., The Bishop’s Task Force on AIDS) and Cultural/Ethnic Celebrations.

**A special place for today, a spiritual home for tomorrow:** The St. Iakovos Retreat Center meets our immediate needs by providing an ideal setting to meet individual, family, group, education and church requirements for a special setting away from the cares of the world, by eliminating the outflow of church resources to ‘outside’ facilities, and by creating a physical and spiritual asset that will appreciate for our community over time.

The nature of The Center itself—its scale, structure and flexibility—ensures that this Retreat will be able to grow as our community grows and meet our needs however they emerge and develop.

**St. Iakovos Retreat Center Existing Facilities:**

- 137 acres in a rural setting; 35 acres of pristine woods and hills
- Sparkling eight-acre lake
- Classic century old farmhouse, 1,600 square foot; 2 stories; 5 comfortable bedrooms, large kitchen, spacious living room
- Historical 2,000 square foot Community Center; comfy screened porch; large game room; wide screen television/video; outdoor pool
- Indoor pool with Jacuzzi
- Sports facilities: basketball court; baseball diamond; tennis court; grounds for volleyball, soccer, cross-country skiing
- 4 car mini-train with 20 person capacity that circles grounds
- 930 square foot barn
- Two car garage with attached shed

**Planned new facilities:**

- Chapel
- Hotel-style facility for up to 128 children
- All-purpose building with kitchen/dining and meeting facilities

**Open your heart to a special place:** The St. Iakovos Retreat Center represents an opportunity to give in a way that nourishes our children and families, strengthens our Faith, supports and extends the Community, and serves the Lord. This is a gift to be embraced by generations and generations.

With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos, we prayerfully ask for your support for this worthy project.

We believe the St. Iakovos Retreat Center will prove to be a truly special place for our Greek Orthodox community. We hope you will open your heart to this special place.

St. Iakovos Retreat Center  
1070 224<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Town of Brighton, WI 53139

To make a donation or for more information call 312-337-4130 or email [info@stiakovosretreatcenter.com](mailto:info@stiakovosretreatcenter.com)

[www.stiakovosretreatcenter.com](http://www.stiakovosretreatcenter.com)

# The Inter-Christian Marriage

Beloved in Christ,

According to the vital statistics kept by the Department of Registry of our holy Archdiocese of America indicate that the numbers of inter-Christian marriages conducted in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America have steadily increased. Today, nearly two thirds (63%) of all marriages conducted in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese are designated inter-Christian. When Greek Orthodox persons marrying outside of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America are also considered, intermarriage rates are likely closer to 75 – 80%.

In the article ‘Mixed’ Marriages and the Canonical Tradition written by Professor Lewis J. Patsavos, a Professor of Canon Law at Holy Cross School of Theology states the following: “In the early Church when marriages were normally blessed during the course of the Eucharist, marriage under these circumstances between an Orthodox and a non-Orthodox Christian was unheard of. It was not until the marriage ceremony was removed from the central act of worship—the Eucharist—that the term ‘mixed’ marriage acquired meaning...” There are a significant number of canons according to Professor Patsavos i.e., canon 72 of the Sixth Ecumenical Council is unequivocal in its prohibition of marriage between an Orthodox and a non-Orthodox Christian.

Professor Patsavos in this same article points out that “a significant step in the progressively more lenient attitude of the Church of Constantinople towards ‘mixed’ marriages was taken at the end of the last century. It constituted the transfer of the prerogative to exercise ‘economy’ in ‘mixed’ marriages from the Holy Synod to the local bishop. According to related decisions, ideally the non-Orthodox partner should be urged to espouse the Orthodox faith; otherwise, he or she must sign a written statement that children born of the marriage would be baptized into the Orthodox faith”.

The Mysterion (Sacrament) of Holy Marriage between a man and a woman should be performed in the Orthodox Church according to the liturgical tradition, and blessed by a priest recognized as canonical by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.

“In the case of ‘mixed’ marriages, the non-Orthodox Christian must be a person who belongs to a denomination which accepts the sacramental character of Holy Baptism. Having been baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity, he or she would declare responsibly that future children will be baptized according to the rites of the Greek Orthodox Church and that they shall be raised in the Orthodox Faith... A non-Orthodox Christian who marries an Orthodox Christian does not automatically become a member of the Orthodox Church, and is therefore not permitted to receive Holy Communion or other sacraments in the Orthodox Church”.

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America “As a result of the Orthodox concept of *economia*, (a type of theological tolerance) inter-Christian marriages between an Orthodox Christian and another Trinitarian Christian are permitted. Briefly, the Church has made this concession because it recognizes that we live in an increasingly pluralistic society. The Church is also concerned with each member’s salvation, and therefore does not desire to place any obstacle before its faithful by denying the Sacrament of Marriage to those who choose to enter an inter-Christian marriage.

Although the Orthodox Church permits inter-Christian marriages between its faithful and other Trinitarian Christians, it has done so by seeking to protect its theological integrity. To that end, the following additional pastoral directives (regarding inter-Christian marriages between Orthodox Christians and other Trinitarian Christians) have emerged.

Since the Sacrament of Marriage is a Christian ceremony, and the Orthodox Church does not perform the Sacrament of Marriage for an Orthodox Christian and an un-baptized person, non-Orthodox Christians wishing to get married in the Orthodox Church must have been baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity. In addition, the Orthodox Church also does not perform the Sacrament of Marriage for two non-Orthodox Christians. At least one individual must be Orthodox in good standing with his or her parish. (According to the Special Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese (Article VI, Section 1), “Any person, eighteen years of age or over, who has been baptized according to the rites of the

Church, or was received into the Church through Chrismation, who lives according to the faith and canons of the Church, who has met his financial obligation to the Parish and abides by the regulations herein and the by-laws of the Parish, is a member in good standing of the Parish”).

In order to remain in proper canonical and spiritual standing with the Orthodox Church, Orthodox Christians must be married by an Orthodox priest, in an Orthodox Church, and in the manner prescribed by the priest's service book.

Couples marrying in the Orthodox Church must also commit themselves to baptizing and raising their children in the Orthodox Church. Orthodox Christians who choose to baptize their future children in their partner's church call into question their desire to live an Orthodox lifestyle. Such a decision also affects the Orthodox partner's standing with his or her church.

Since only Orthodox Christians are permitted to participate in the Orthodox Church's sacraments, sponsors exchanging the wedding rings and crowns must be Orthodox Christians in good standing with their parish. This rule is connected to the Church's understanding of the sponsor. Briefly, the sponsor is more than a legal witness. The sponsor (koumbaro or Koumbara) also functions as a spokesperson for the Orthodox congregation affirming the spiritual preparedness of the couple to enter into the community of marriage.

Orthodox spouses should be made aware that if their marriage is not solemnized by the Orthodox Church, they are NO longer in good standing and are NOT permitted to receive the sacraments or participate in the sacraments as a sponsor. (The term sponsor is a generic term that refers to either the paranymphos or paranymphy who exchanges the rings and crowns during the Sacrament of Marriage or the godparent during the Sacrament of Baptism).

# MONASTICISM IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

“The innermost spiritual sense of Orthodox Monasticism is revealed in joyful mourning. This paradoxical phrase denotes a spiritual state in which a monk (or nun) in his prayer grieves for the sins of the world and at the same time experiences the regenerating spiritual joy of Christ’s forgiveness and resurrection. A monk (or a nun) dies in order to live, he forgets himself in order to find his real self in God, he becomes ignorant of worldly knowledge in order to attain real spiritual wisdom which is given only to the humble ones.”

With the development of monasticism in the Church there appeared a peculiar way of life, which however did not proclaim a new morality. The Orthodox Church does not have one set of moral rules for the laity and another for monks or nuns, nor does it divide the faithful into classes according to their obligations towards God. The Christian life is the same for everyone. All Christians have in common that “their being and name is from Christ”. This means that the true Christian must ground his life conduct in Christ, something which is hard to achieve in the world.

What is difficult in the world is approached with dedication in the monastic life. In his spiritual life the monk simply tries to do what every Christian should try to do: to live according to God’s commandments. The fundamental principles of monasticism are not different from those of the lives of all the faithful. This is especially apparent in the history of the early Church, before monasticism appeared.

In the tradition of the Church there is a clear preference for celibacy as opposed to the married state. This stance is not of course hostile to marriage, which is recognized as a profound mystery, but simply indicates the practical obstacles marriage puts in the way of the pursuit of the spiritual life. For this reason, from the earliest days of Christianity many of the faithful chose celibacy. Thus St. Athenagoras the Confessor in the second century wrote: “You can find many men and women who remain unmarried all their lives in the hope of coming closer to God”.

From the very beginning the Christian life has been associated with self-denial and sacrifice: “If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me”. Christ calls on us to give ourselves totally to Him: “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me, and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of me”.

Finally, fervent and unceasing prayer, obedience to the elders of the Church, brotherly love and humility, as well as all the essential virtues of the monastic life were cultivated by the members of the Church from its earliest days.

One cannot deny that the monk or nun and the married man or woman have different ways of life, but this does not alter their common responsibility towards God and His commandments. Every one of us has his own special gift within one and indivisible body of Christ’s Church. Every way of life, whether married or solitary, is equally subject to God’s absolute will. Hence no way of life can be taken as an excuse for ignoring or selectively responding to Christ’s call and His commandments. Both paths demand effort and determination.

Saint John Chrysostom is particularly emphatic on this point: “You greatly delude yourself and err, if you think that one thing is demanded from the layman and another from the monk; since the difference between them is in that whether one is married or not, while in everything else they have the same responsibilities... Because all must rise to the same height; and what has turned the world upside down is that we think only the monk must live rigorously, while the rest are allowed to live a life of indolence”. Referring to the observance of particular commandments in the Gospels, he says: “Whoever is angry with his brother without cause, regardless of whether he is a layman or a monk, opposes God in the same way. And whoever looks at a woman lustfully, regardless of his status, commits the same sin”. In general, he observes that in giving His commandments Christ does not make distinction people: “A man is not defined by whether he is a layman or a monk, but by the way he thinks”.

Christ’s commandments demand strictness of life that we often expect only from monks or nuns. The requirements of decent and sober behavior, the condemnation of wealth and adoption of frugality, the avoidance of idle talk and the call to show selfless love are not given only for monks or nuns, but for all the faithful.

Therefore, the rejection of worldly thinking is the duty not only of monks or nuns, but of all Christians. The faithful must not have a worldly mind, but sojourn as strangers and travelers with their minds fixed on God. Their homes is not on earth, but in the Kingdom of Heaven: “For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city which is to come”. The Church can be seen as a community in exodus. The world is its temporary home but the Church is bound for the Kingdom of God. Just as the Israelites, freed from bondage in Egypt, journeyed

towards Jerusalem through many trials and tribulations, so Christians, freed from the bondage of sin, journey through many trials and tribulations toward the Kingdom of Heaven.

In the early days this exodus from the world did not involve a change of place but a change of the way of life. A man does not reject God and turns towards the world physically but spiritually, because God was and is everywhere and fulfills everything, so in the same way the rejection of the world and turning towards God was not understood in physical sense but as a change of the way of life. This is especially clear in the lives of the early Christians. Although they lived in the world they were fully aware that they did not come from it nor did they belong to it: "In the world but not of the world". And those who lived in chastity and poverty, which became later fundamental principles of the monastic life, did not abandon the world or take to the mountains.

Orthodox monasticism has always been associated with stillness or silence, which is seen primarily as an internal rather than an external state. External silence is sought in order to attain inner stillness of mind more easily. This stillness is not a kind of inertia or inaction, but awakening and activation of the spiritual life. It is intense vigilance and total devotion to God. Living in a quiet place the monk or nun succeeds in knowing himself/herself better, fighting his or her passions more deeply and purifying his or her heart more fully, so as to be found worthy of beholding God.

In the lives of monks or nuns the Christian sees examples of men and women who took their Christian faith seriously and committed themselves to the path which everyone is called by Christ to follow. Not all of them attained perfection, but they all tried, and all rose to a certain height. Not all possessed the same talent, but all strove as good and faithful servants. They are not held up as examples to be imitated, especially by laymen. They are however valuable signposts on the road to perfection, which is common for all and has its climax in the perfectness of God.

## ORTHODOX MONASTIC COMMUNITIES

### GREEK ORTHODOX

Holy Convent of Saint John Chrysostom  
4600 93<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158  
Abbess: Gerontissa Melanie  
Tel.: (262) 694-9850  
Fax: (262) 697-1581

Holy Monastery of Holy Trinity  
125 Sturdevant Road  
Smith Creek, MI 48074  
Abbott: Geronda Joseph  
Tel: (810) 367-8134  
Fax: (810) 367-6344

### SERBIAN ORTHODOX

Nativity of the Mother of God  
Serbian Orthodox Monastery  
32787 Early Road  
New Carlisle, IN 46552  
Mati: Gerontissa Makrina  
Tel.: (574) 654-7994

Holy Monastery of Transfiguration  
17906 Rt. # 173  
Harvard, IL 60033  
Abbot: Geronda Akakios  
Tel.: (815) 943-3588  
Fax: (815) 943-3878

St. Anthony Monastery  
4784 N. St. Joseph's Way  
Florence, AZ 85132  
Abbot: Geronda Paisios  
Tel: (520) 868-3188  
Fax (574) 868-3088

### RUMANIAN ORTHODOX

Dormition of the Mother of God  
Orthodox Monastery  
3389 Rives Eaton Road  
Rives Junction, MI 49277  
Abbess: Mother Gabriella (Ursache)  
Tel.: (517) 569-2873  
Fax: (517) 569-2252

## Bookstore

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches wouldn't the Icon of the Mystical Supper be a glorious reminder of how God blesses us all year round. We can special order a particular style or size for you. Please, allow at least 3 weeks for your request.

"A book much needed, and unlike anything that has appeared on this subject, The Heavenly Banquet is more than a liturgical commentary. With an abundance of copiously documented biblical citations and rich patristic references, the Divine Liturgy is explained line by line, word by word. This book holds answers to all kinds of complex liturgical, social, and theological questions. In depth, yet easy to follow, written in simple, understandable language, this book will aid Catechists and instructors can draw from its abundant material for presentation and discussion.

The St. Andrew's Bookstore is open Monday-Friday from 9:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. in a self-serve capacity (though calling ahead to make sure you can be helped if necessary is always a good idea). We open on Sundays following Divine Liturgy, if volunteer workers are available. **REMEMBER TO USE THOSE IMPORTANT FORMS LOCATED IN THE BOOKSTORE AREA.** Please read it and follow the instructions. We need those item stickers. Checks are made payable to **St. Andrew's Bookstore.**

The Church thanks you for your continuous support.--Father George, Anna and Staff

## Young Married Couples, Young Adults Ministry

Through this ministry it is hoped that they will a) be better acquainted with each other; b) have a better understanding of the Holy mission of the church and be involved in the various parish ministries; and c) infuse our parish with greater energy, enthusiasm, ideas and activity. Needless to say, that they are not only the present of our parish but also the future. It is imperative to the

welfare, stability and progress of the parish for them to gradually assume greater responsibility and leadership of the parish ministries including administration and organization. Our parish needs them and they need the parish. May God bless this effort and the St. Andrew Parish. If any of our young married couples are interested in joining please call Father George.

## Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, November 19 at 7pm.** **PLEASE NOTE:** Parish Council meetings are open to all members in good standing to come and observe. If you need to address the Council please contact, in writing, Father George or the Parish Council president two weeks before the meeting so the council may add it to the agenda.

## Hall Usage

Any ministry wishing to use the hall and/or kitchen or any parishioner wishing to rent the hall, **needs to contact Callahan's Catering directly at 574-206-8565 or [callahans2you@gmail.com](mailto:callahans2you@gmail.com).** They are more than willing to work with us on scheduling; we simply need to let them know as soon as possible any dates we would like. Thank you

## Coffee Hour Host/Hostess

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Sun, Nov 3-Billie Limberopoulos,  
Gabriella Lampos

Sun, Nov 10-

Sun, Nov 17-

Sun, Nov 24

We need hosts/hostesses *throughout the year*. Signup sheet is located in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you.

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## Offertory Schedule

Sunday, Nov 3	Group #2
Sunday, Nov 10	Group #1
Sunday, Nov 17	Group #2
Sunday, Nov 24	Group #1

## Good Samaritans

New members are always welcome! **Next Meeting: Monday, November 4.** Annual membership dues are \$20. Please make checks payable to Good Samaritans and mail to 52455 N. Ironwood Road. South Bend, IN 46635

The ladies of the Good Samaritans will be holding their annual Salad Bar Luncheon on Tuesday, October 29 from 11:30am to 1:00pm. Carry-outs are available. The event will be held in the Good Samaritan Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$7.00 per person. The cost includes homemade salads, hot and cold, our famous spanakopita (spinach pie) and beverage. There will also be a mini-bake sale and 50/50 raffle. This luncheon is one of our main fundraisers and supports our important Scholarship fund.

## Prosforo Schedule

Sunday, Nov 3	Marina Carlin
Sunday, Nov 10	Penny Poulos
Sunday, Nov 17	Ioanna Bilonis
Sunday, Nov 24	Mary Jo Tirikos

Acolyte (Altar Boy) Ministry  
Acolytes Advisors: George Callas  
Stefan Konstantopoulos

Frederick Hawley  
Joseph Hawley  
Matthew Hawley  
Nico Hawthorne  
Demetrios Kamiotis  
Alexander Karamitsos  
Nicholas Karamitsos  
Giovanni Karakatsanis-Swarts  
Panagiotis Kurtis  
John Kungu  
Matthew Mattheos  
Athan Mighion  
Dimitri Napoleon  
Costa Nolan  
Maximos Nolan  
Stephen Price  
Nicholas Samolis  
Yanni Samoilis

Senior Acolytes:  
Nicholas Karamalegos the Reader  
Constantine Katris the Reader  
Makarios Ngure the Reader  
Samuel Ngure the Reader  
Mattheos Popyk the Reader  
Nicholas Schlitt the Reader  
Nicholas Strafford the Reader

**NOTE: If serving in the Altar, you must also attend Catechetical School classes.**

## Prison Ministry

Our St. Andrew parish has now established a Prison Ministry to serve the spiritual needs of Orthodox Christians who have been convicted of crimes. Father George visits the local prison weekly so as to bring the inmates closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and help them grow in our holy Orthodox Christian faith.

Father is able to supply them with Orthodox Christian prayer books, spiritual books, the Orthodox Study Bible, etc. Also, he offers the Sacrament of Holy Confession and conducts prayer services.

We welcome the participation of all Orthodox Christians who have compassion for those men and women who are behind bars. We ask that you include them and their families in your daily prayers.

## Orthodox Campus Fellowship

In 2001, Fr. George Konstantopoulos (St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church) worked closely with Maria Calash (ND student), and James Giannokopoulos (ND student), Fr. Jovic Dragisa (Sts. Peter and Paul Serbian Orthodox Church), Deacon Stefanos Alexopoulos (ND student), and Virgil Andronache (ND student) to establish the first organized Orthodox Campus Fellowship for Michiana (serving the Orthodox student communities of Saint Mary's College, the University of Notre Dame, and Indiana University - South Bend).

Since then, Fr. Konstantopoulos and Fr. Sasa Nedich (current Priest of Sts. Peter and Paul Serbian Orthodox Church) have continued to provide spiritual guidance for all the Eastern Orthodox students as well as opportunities for philanthropic activities, prayer services in various locations, and transportation to the canonically established Eastern Orthodox churches in Michiana. These Eastern Orthodox churches are members of the Standing Conference of Orthodox Churches of America.

The mission of Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) is support fellowships on college campuses, whose members and experience and witness to the Orthodox Christian Church through community life, prayer and study of the faith.

Please contact Father George at 277-4688 if you are interested in joining.

## Voice of Orthodox Christianity

There are selected videos available on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/SPPSOC](http://www.youtube.com/SPPSOC) and also at [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

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### **Holy Relics here at Our Saint Andrew Parish**

The following Holy Relics are entombed in the crypt of the Holy Altar Table, placed by Metropolitan Iakovos at the Consecration of Saint Andrew on October 7, 1990: St. Haralambos the Hieromartyr (celebrated February 10), St. Kerykos the Martyr (July 15), and the Holy Fathers of Sinai & Raitho (Jan 14).

There are also two portable Reliquaries that sit on top of the Altar Table with the following Holy Relics: St. John Chrysostom (Nov 13), St. Vlassios the Holy Martyr (Feb 11), St. Mark, Bishop of Ephesus (Jan 19), St. Artemios the Great Martyr (Oct 20), St. Antipas, Bishop of Pergamos (Apr 11), 614 Martyrs of the Holy Monastery of Hotzeva and St. Christophoros the Martyr (May 9).

# Catechetical School

“Let the little children come to Me, do not hinder them, for such belongs the Kingdom of God.” Mark 10:14

A very special thank you to Mrs. Sue Stangas and her volunteers for providing us with the wonderful hot dog luncheon to celebrate the beginning of our Catechetical School program. It was so nice to see everyone and hear about their summer activities.

**We are still looking for Catechetical School co-directors to help the Sunday School program. Please, see Father George.**

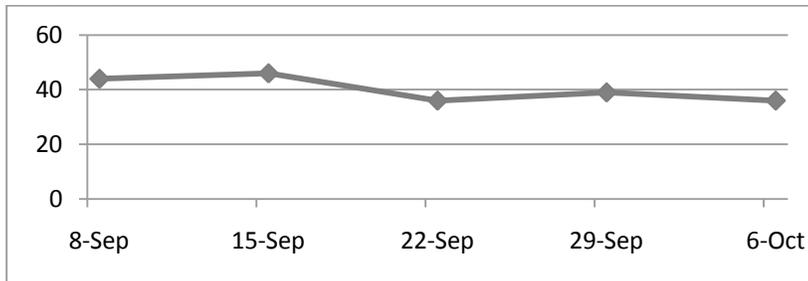
## Our staff this year:

Director and Spiritual Advisor	Father George
Preschool	Mrs. Anna Napoleon
Kindergarten	Mrs. Cindy Katris and Mrs. Billie Limberopoulos
1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> grades	Mrs. Elaine Samoilis and Mrs. Pam Kurtis
3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> grades	Presbytera Elaine Konstantopoulos and Miss Mariam Konstantopoulos- aide
5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> grades	Mrs. Mary Jo Tirikos
7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> grades	Mr. Jim Stavros
9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades	Mr. Hristos Kirgios and Mr. Tom Giordina-aide
Junior Choir	Mrs. Catherine Hostetler and Mrs. Elizabeth Farr
Treasurer	Mr. Bruno Zovich

May our school year be blessed with His love and guidance.

The Good Samaritan Cultural Center has been reserved for our Christmas Program/Luncheon. We will need parents to help us prepare for this joyous event. Please sign up as soon as possible.

## Attendance:



**Students enrolled: 84**

**Icon Program**—All Sunday School students must be registered and participate to receive a wooden 3.5 x 4.5 icon of one of the twelve feastdays. They will receive this icon in May at the end of the Sunday School year. What a wonderful way for them to build their home altar and keep their spiritual life strong.

**Martin's Program**-If you shop at Martin's, please fill out the Shopper Sign-up sheet and return it to your child's Catechetical School teacher or the church office. Every time your card is scanned, we earn points to use towards items for the school.

## Dates to remember:

Thursday, November 28	Remember to give thanks
Sunday, December 1 <sup>st</sup>	St. Nicholas Gift Project
Sunday, December 15	Christmas Program/luncheon
Sunday, December 22	No Classes
Sunday, December 29	No Classes

# Coffee Hour Information

**ATTENTION:** Coffee Hour Host/Hostess (Catechetical School Parents and Parishioners):

As a host/hostess you will need to bring in treats for approximately 100 children **and** 100 adults.

Please, remember the drinks for the children in Sunday School.

Sign-up sheets are located in the Fellowship Hall. We encourage all our families to sign up at least once throughout the year. *We also need you to sign up for Sundays that events take place (i.e. St. Nektarios Luncheon, Pancake Breakfast), just for the children's snacks.* Our Senior Coffee Hour Leader, Mary Koucouthakis, is there to assist you with any questions you may have.

**NOTE:** When planning a coffee hour for a loved one's Memorial, you will also need to sign-up on the coffee hour sheet so that there is no confusion. Please, remember to follow the above treat amounts.

The Catechetical School treasurer will come to collect Coffee Hour donations. All monies collected are used to buy icons, books and other necessary supplies for our Catechetical School classes. God Bless and Thank you.

**P.S. When you are a host/hostess you are in charge of the Kitchen duties.**

**ATTENTION:** Coffee Hour Host/Hostess Kitchen Duties

1. ARRIVE BEFORE DIVINE LITURGY TO ALLOW TIME FOR CATECHETICAL SCHOOL TREAT SET-UP BY OUR SENIOR COFFEE HOUR LEADER, MARY KOUCOUTHAKIS.
2. Set-up coffee hour treats for adults in kitchenette area.
3. Leave Church just before dismissal to start brewing coffee and to serve treats.
4. After Coffee Hour please remember to :
  - a. Clean up kitchen area
  - b. Clean up Catechetical School pitchers, plates and cart
  - c. Turn off all coffee pots (There are five of them)
  - d. Wipe down counter
  - e. Turn off lights.

Thank you to our wonderful coffee hour hosts/hostesses for the months of **September: PMike Chronopoulos, Athina Kamiotis, Jasmine Schlitt, Christina Strickler, Rekos Family, Maria Strafford, Stephanie Holland, Krista Hawthorne and Filio Riber.** God bless you!

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## **From the Choir Loft...**

Father George and Catherine Hostetler (Director) invite fellow parishioners to join our Saint Andrew Choir to chant the solemn and sacred hymns of our Church during the Divine Liturgy.

"Make a joyful shout to the Lord...Come before His presence with singing...Be thankful to Him and bless His name..." (Psalm 100)

Our almighty God calls upon all the worshipping faithful to thank Him, to glorify and worship Him for the abundant love and the blessing He bestows on us.

Those who have been given the grace to sing, are expected to use this talent for God's service, for in serving God and putting Him first, we honor Him and thank Him.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Choir members must always respect our divine services; be at every Choir rehearsal; wear the proper attire showing respect for the Lord's house, be on time for Divine Liturgy, and must follow the instructions of the Choir Director.

Please contact Catherine and become a part of this most important ministry

# F.A.I.T.H Ministry

## FAMILIES AND INSTRUCTORS TOGETHER HELP



It's a simple concept our schools have been using for years. They call it PTO or before that the PTA. It's a parent/teacher organization, and for St. Andrew we are calling it FAITH. We all need faith, right? Well, so do our children. They need you. We have many activities, and we could have many more activities if we had more help. We want to make your Church school the best, and in order to do that we need this ministry.

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## YOUTH MINISTRIES

**Uniform Parish Regulations of the Archdiocese:** Article 19, Section 3: Each Parish shall endeavor to have at least the following ministries: Chanter(s); a Choir; Acolytes; a Catechetical School; a Greek Language/Cultural School; chapters of the Greek Orthodox Youth of America (GOYA); Young Adult League (Y.A.L.), a Junior Orthodox Youth (JOY); a chapter of the ladies Philotochos Society; an Outreach and Evangelism Ministry; and such other ministries as are necessary to meet the spiritual and cultural needs of the Parish.

A child's world is changing rapidly—it is virtually impossible to keep up with every new trend and movement of their culture. Growing up in today's society is a much more difficult task than it was in previous times. Our children are constantly being exposed to negative and destructive influences. If these influences are not challenged, they can, and will, define who our children are and what they will become. Innocence is slipping away at an alarmingly early age. For these reasons, the positive teachings and traditions of the Orthodox Church must become a living presence in the lives of our children. This makes ministry to our children not an option, but rather a necessity.

But what is ministry? The word minister means to give aid to those in need. Therefore, a ministry of the Orthodox Church gives aid as part of the Body of Christ. A child becomes a full member of this Body at their baptism. The foundation of all youth ministry is the cultivation and education of our children, so that they may become active members of the Body of Christ. Youth ministry needs to begin early, even before the child begins to participate in Church Ministries. It begins with the family in the home and it needs to continue in the home as the child grows in the Church

**We are in need of volunteers to lead the HOPE (K-2nd grades), and GOYA (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades). Please contact Father if you are interested in volunteering.**

The St. Andrew Family Ministries established last year was not and is not meant to take the place of our youth groups. It is a ministry to serve ALL members of our parish. All ministries of the parish are meant to work cooperatively to enhance and enrich the spiritual lives of our parishioners of all ages.

## ST. ANDREW'S LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

The 2013 Philoptochos Board and Officers are: Mary Jo Tirikos, President; Mary Koucouthakis, Vice president; Kelly Popyk, Treasurer; Athina Kamiotis, Secretary; Irene Walsh, Advisor; Maria Giannakakis, Elena Kristos, Athina Kamiotis and Georgia Vellos.

Please join us and let us become friends of the poor and help the less fortunate. **Next meeting: Thursday, November 14 at 6:30pm.**

The Philoptochos has been providing food baskets to people in need for Christmas. In order to know how many baskets we need to make, we need to have a list of names. Please, contact any Philoptochos member if you know of an individual or family in need, and let us know as soon as possible so that we can plan accordingly.

### PHILOPTOCHOS PRAYER

O Lord Jesus Christ, we bow our heads before You, and with humble hearts we give thanks to You for the abundant blessings, which You have poured forth upon us. We praise You for gathering us together as members of the Ladies Philoptochos Society in the service to Your Holy Church. We bless You for the selfless sacrifice of countless generations of women who have faithfully fulfilled the philanthropic mission entrusted to them. Through Your ineffable wisdom and Your Divine power, You have enabled us to minister to those who are in need of Your love, Your comfort, and Your care. Make us instruments of Your peace and of Your hope, O Lord. Where there is pain and suffering, may we bring Your healing and comfort. Where there is loneliness and isolation, may we bring the fellowship of Your Holy Church. Where there is despair and discouragement, may we inspire hope and faith in You. Where there is hatred and strife, may we be peacemakers producing the fruits of love and reconciliation. We also ask You, O Lord, to guide our deliberations, our decisions, our fellowship, and all our labors, so that in all we do, or say, we may bring glory to Your Holy Name, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

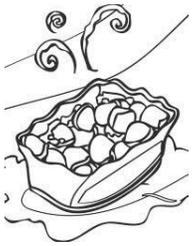
National Philoptochos Website: [www.philoptochos.org](http://www.philoptochos.org)

# Feast Day Dinner Dance

## PARISH FAMILY EVENT

St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church  
52455 N. Ironwood Road, 574-277-4688

# Saturday, November 9, 2013



Appetizers & cash bar 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Buffet Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Dance 7:30 p.m.

The evening's menu will feature a buffet with entrees, appetizers, salad, green vegetable, dessert and coffee.

Greek Music provided by DJ Antoni Spanos  
for Greek and American dancing  
throughout the evening.



Adult \$25 per person w/advance reservation\*

Children \$15 12 years and older

Children \$10 under 12 years of age

\*Adult admission price at the door is \$30 per person; \$20 for children twelve (12) years of age and older and \$15 for children under twelve (12) years of age.

**Advance reservations are encouraged** in order that the caterer have an accurate dinner count. You may make your reservation, with payment, through the church office.

Ticket sales will soon be held at church on Sundays after Divine Liturgy.

No one will be excluded from this parish family event.  
If you have questions, please contact Father George.

Dear St. Andrews Sunday  
School Students,

Thank you so much for  
your S-A to IOCC!  
May God bless your  
kindness to those who  
are so giving!

In Christ

*Nick Kasemotes*



Nick Kasemotes  
Gift Officer

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES  
110 West Road, Suite 360 • Baltimore, MD 21204 USA  
www.iocc.org • e-mail: [nkasemotes@iocc.org](mailto:nkasemotes@iocc.org)  
tel: (410) 243-9820 • mobile: (443) 421-5446

actalliance



## **The Authentic Symbol of Faith of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church**

### **The Confession of Faith**

#### **The Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages; Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not created, of one essence with the Father through Whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried; And He rose on the third day, according to the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father; And He will come again with glory to judge the living and dead. His kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Creator of life, Who proceeds from the Father, Who together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke through the prophets. In one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come. Amen.

#### **ΤΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΛΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΠΙΣΤΕΩΣ**

**Πιστεύω εις ένα Θεόν, Πατέρα Παντοκράτορα, Ποιητήν Ουρανού και γής, ορατών τε πάντων και αοράτων. Καί εις ένα Κύριον Ιησούν Χριστόν, τόν Υιόν του Θεού, τόν Μονογενή, τόν εκ του Πατρός γεννηθέντα προ πάντων των αιώνων. Φώς εκ Φωτός, Θεόν αληθινόν εκ Θεού αληθινού, γεννηθέντα ού ποιηθέντα, ομοούσιον τω Πατρί, δι' ού τά πάντα εγένετο. Τόν δι' ημάς τούς ανθρώπους και διά τήν ημετέραν σωτηρίαν κατελθόντα εκ των Ουραμών, και σαρκωθέντα εκ Πνεύματος Αγίου και Μαρίας τής Παρθένου, και ενανθρωπήσαντα. Σταυρωθέντα τε υπέρ ημών επί Ποντίου Πιλάτου, και παθόντα και ταφέντα. Και αναστάντα τή Τρίτη ημέρα κατά τάς Γραφάς. Και ανελθόντα εις τούς Ουραμούς, και καθεζόμενον εκ δεξιών του Πατρός. Και πάλιν ερχόμενον μετά δόξης κρίναι ζώντας και νεκρούς, Ού τής Βασιλείας ούκ έσται τέλος. Και εις τό Πνεύμα τό Άγιον, το Κύριον, το Ζωοποιόν, τό εκ του Πατρός εκπορευόμενον, το σύν Πατρί και Υιώ συμπροσκυνούμενον και συνδοξαζόμενον, τό λαλήσαν διά των Προφητών. Είς μίαν Αγίαν, Καθολικήν, και Αποστολικήν Εκκλησίαν. Ομολογώ έν Βάπτισμα εις άφесιν αμαρτιών. Προσδοκώ Ανάστασιν νεκρών. Και ζωήν του μέλλοντος αιώνος. Αμήν.**

*The monthly bulletin is produced by Apollo Printing and Graphics Center at no charge to the St. Andrew's Community. Apollo Printing is not responsible for any errors, omissions or timeliness of the bulletin. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.*



Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church  
52455 North Ironwood  
South Bend, IN 46635

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Phone: 574.277.4688  
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## Our Holy Mission

St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church of South Bend, Indiana; under the auspices of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago; is a Christian Community committed to serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit, and united in faith and in love with God, and called to make that love real to others through...

- **Worship** (the Divine Liturgy) and the reception of the Sacrament of Holy Communion by which we achieve union with Jesus Christ and with each other.
- **Philanthropic Diakonia** (Service) to those people in need of our love and compassion. In teaching His disciples the Lord said, "...as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40)
- **Educational Opportunities** which enable Orthodox Christians to grow in Christ and be faithful disciples and prepares them to strengthen their personal commitment to our Lord, His church and the Holy Tradition.
- **National, Metropolis and Parish Ministries** of our Holy Orthodox Church which provide opportunities for Parish Outreach and to live as an integral and vital part of the community. The prime objective is to encourage a greater participation in the life of the Church and the world.
- **Teaching** the commandment of the New Life, imparting a clear knowledge of the doctrines, traditions, canons and disciplines of the Church and guiding the growth, process and enlightenment of all Orthodox Christians.